

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPAUS on 01/06/2004 03:55 PM -----

bongo dave
<bongodave@cox.net> To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc:
Subject: Comments on draft EIS on mountaintop removal mining
01/02/2004 02:36
PM

January 2, 2004

Mr. John Forren
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear John Forren,

I am upset to learn that the Bush administration plans to continue to let coal companies destroy Appalachia with mining practices that level mountaintops, wipe out forests, bury streams, and destroy communities.

According to the administration's draft Environmental Impact Statement(EIS) on mountaintop removal coal mining, the environmental effects of mountaintop removal are widespread, devastating, and permanent. Yet the draft EIS proposes no restrictions on the size of valley fills that bury streams, no limits on the number of acres of forest that can be destroyed, no protections for imperiled wildlife, and no safeguards for the communities of people that depend on the region's natural resources for themselves and future generations.

The Bush administration's "preferred alternative" for addressing the problems caused by mountaintop removal coal mining is to weaken existing environmental protections. This "preferred alternative" ignores the administration's own studies detailing the devastation caused by mountaintop removal coal mining, including:

- over 1200 miles of streams have been damaged or destroyed by mountaintop removal;

- forest losses in West Virginia have the potential of directly impacting as many as 244 vertebrate wildlife species;

- Without new limits on mountaintop removal, an additional 350 square miles of mountains, streams, and forests will be flattened and destroyed by mountaintop removal mining.

In light of these facts, I urge you to consider alternatives that reduce the environmental impacts of mountaintop removal. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

We need to get away from instant gratification thinking. Let's Open up to something new, fresh, and renewable. The energy is already 'naturally' there begging to be used this way. Let's give it a try.

I believe if our leaders... along with the rest of the world would quickly read and or listen to these books and tapes* listed below, we would have a chance to get thru all this, swiftly and with as little grief as possible and may create a lot of good friends on the way...though I don't think Saddam Hussein would be motivated to change... I believe he is... our motivation... to change...

... I never read so much and so fast in my life. And I now, have learned the difference between Religion and being Spiritual, and better... how the two can compliment each other, yet, not be the same thing.

More importantly, why it is so imperative that we seek to find this difference very soon...there are more reasons here than we thought. And it is really so easy to understand, the way these authors express these Universal ideas and differences.

If you are a seeker...

This may help you or a friend find some new angles, from these Angels.

1) MANIFEST YOUR DESTINY [and others] Tapes or book by Wayne Dyer
2) * GARY ZUKAV'S book - SOUL STORIES, SEAT OF THE SOUL -Tapes or book
3) Or you could Listen to these audio tapes first. They may be the fastest. *THE NEW REVELATIONS-BY NEIL DONALD WALSCH along with his Friendship with God or Communion with God series or CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD

4) THE STARSEED TRANSMISSIONS; THE THIRD MILLENNIUM; RETURN OF THE BIRD TRIBE by KEN CAREY [listen to the others first, then these]

5) *** HEALING THE SOUL OF AMERICA and/or EVERYDAY GRACE by MARIANNE WILLIAMSON

6) *THE BOOK OF CO-CREATION 'THE REVELATION' our crisis is a birth- BARBARA MARX HUBBARD

7) SCIENCE OF MIND - This was actually my first introduction to all of these books, tapes... and spouse. And the real conscious beginning to my life's purpose or quest. Please check out their small booklet, published monthly, that has continued the studies started by EARNEST HOLMES (this is NOT to be confused with scientology ... which we know nothing about, so we can not advise one way or another about that, please ...no offense to anyone.)

This is also the way my life partner and I met ... at a Creative Life Drum Circle Thru Reverend Dr. Jesse Jennings He is the minister of the Creative Life Spiritual Center of Houston, TX. He also has an article monthly in this periodical. And it is a very good read... and is very interesting as he answers some of the most "tough" questions about the spiritual practice we all go thru in our everyday lives and he has a knack of making it all fun! And is well worth the time checking him out. By reading the periodical called SCIENCE OF MIND-change your thinking change your life; a philosophy, a faith, a way of life. Can be ordered online at: scienceofmind.com or call 800-247-6463 or check a local bookstore or library.

8) *** www.humanitiesteam.com or humanitysteam.com - or look up Neil Donald Walsch, which you can check this out now. And actually help now.

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9] THE LAST HOURS OF ANCIENT SUNLIGHT- THOM HARTMAN - Rachel my spouse, read this, and recommends it. I have not read it yet. Though she had introduced me to all the others... must be good. She has recommended that I include it here.

10] Carolyn Myss -Listen to anything by her, i.e. ENERGY ANATOMY, ANATOMY OF THE SPIRIT, SACRED CONTRACTS; or 'YOUR PRIMAL NATURE'

11]*** The DEAD SEA SCROLLS by GREGG BRADEN

12] 'JUMP TIME' by Jean Houston Ph.D.

13] 'YOUR PRIMAL NATURE' by CAROLYN MYSS

We need to become more a more 'all inclusive'... and less 'separatists' as a society... maybe I am wrong... I have been before...though I personally, at this time... feel...

Instead of just saying "God Bless America". We need to think a little deeper and perhaps say "GOD BLESS US ALL".... Or "GOD BLESS OUR WORLD or God Bless our Earth"..... Or "GOD BLESS OUR UNIVERSE.....". Otherwise our image comes through as if are coming from a separatists fear base [as opposed to a love base]... as if there is not enough GOD/LOVE TO GO AROUND to bless... everyone... let alone a whole other country.

...IT MUST SEEM LIKE A NEGATIVE REMARK TO EVERYONE ELSE WHO IS NOT INCLUDED IN THIS "God Bless America"... 'PRIVATE CLUB'.

We need to start accentuating the things we all have in common...starting with the 'EARTH'..... Though that would seem logical...yet... It also seems that we need a constant reminder of this...perhaps we could fly a FRESH NEW FLAG 'under' each countries flag. And the only requirement to fly this flag... would be... you have to belong to the Earth... Or even more inclusive... the universe.

The add-on flag could simply have a picture of the EARTH on it. Perhaps with the word 'ONE' or 'We are all one'...or 'We're all in this together'...something more all inclusive...across the front of it, as a constant reminder that all...what 'one' does...now...affects us all...especially now that the world seems...much 'smaller' these days 'We are... now... all in the same boat'. Perhaps even add an image of a boat to the flag to help remind us to..."Let's not rock it" as the saying goes. Better yet let's start fixing the holes we have put in it...and start treating each other the way we would like to be treated...and we all will have much more fun sailing with a much smoother ride, with less tension. Then we can all be rested and prepared to work together and get this place back to the more original plan the creator had probably intended for us and the Earth.

The sale of this flag could help repair the earth and each other. From the damage we ALL did.

Please read Healing the soul of America and listen to Neale Donald Walsch- They can be checked out from the library. These tapes seem to be saying everything we all have been trying to say anyhow, but without knowing how to put the words together, especially without all the dogma involved. And they have the potential to help us... help others...if, or when, they ask for help, and you will know more what to say...or some things to refer seekers to.. People knowing of these modalities... CAN save our world, as we now know it.

Most of all... these authors admit that these messages are not the only way..."just another way"

And even better... not everyone needs to even have read all of these to make a difference in the collective conscious of the planet. It has been discovered that it only takes 10% of a population to effect a knowing in the rest. [The hundredth monkey effect] or read/listen to the LOST DEAD

SEA SCROLLS for more info on this.

All in all, we must remember that

THE EARTH DOES NOT BELONG TO US...WE BELONG TO THE EARTH. Chief Seattle.

And ...Humans are not the only ones on the Earth... we just act like it.

These two sayings... simply put... seem to help us bring things back to perspective swiftly.

Please watch the new Dennis Kucinich film, about how electable he is and how he talks about being a long shot... I just did. And I cried...deeply... We do need a long shot... it may be the only thing that can get us back on track...being this far off.

Also I noticed that Marianne Williamson, Neil Donald Walsch and Ed Asner and many many others are now endorsing DJ [Dennis John]...Ed Asner, coincidently, is one of the readers for the CONVERSATION WITH GOD SERIES written by Neil Donald Walsch. Please don't think that Neils book and tapes are full of dogma they are more like common sense...actually going thru his material, is more like re-membering, than learning anything knew. This is a collection of things we already know... but somehow have forgotten...yet oddly as we re-discover this information...we feel, very profound, while re-connecting with all this.

They are like no other book or tapes that I have ever read or heard. And this series along with Marianne Williamsons, Carolyn Myss, Gary Zukav and Wayne Dyer may have the potential for so much healing, on such a grand scale, for everyone... that makes these best sellers. And must reads...why they don't use these in schools is almost ridiculous...it has the potential to avert grief...almost immediately. And I don't consider it any more religious than teaching a psychology class.

It is not the only way...just another way.

Good Happens

Love Shall Prevail

Sincerely,

bongo dave
6990 Stearns Rd
Olmsted Falls, OH 44138
USA

REC'D NOV 18 2003

12 November 2003

Mr. John Forren
U.S. EPA (3EA30)
1650 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren,

I was disappointed with the DEIS. It seems that the public's resources such as clean water, headwater streams, and animals are not adequately compensated by the coal companies. The coal companies are allowed to profit at the public's loss of trust resources. What we need are stronger laws protecting trust resources, not weaker ones. I understand America has a security interest in energy; however, the costs are unfairly distributed to Appalachia.

Mountaintop-removal mining and valley fills are devastating the Appalachian environment and its unique culture. These practices bury important headwater streams, destroy biologically rich forest ecosystems, damage drinking-water sources used by millions of people, cause frequent and severe flooding, and wreck the quality of life in mountain communities.

I do not support Alternative 1, 2, or 3 as described in the draft EIS report. None of these options will protect Appalachian forests, water, or communities. In particular, I oppose the proposal to eliminate the stream buffer-zone rule that prohibits mining activity within 100 feet of streams. This rule should be strictly enforced for valley fills and in all other cases. The coal industry must be regulated, and their take of public resources must be where the regulation begins.

Leveling mountains and burying streams is wrong and must stop.

Sincerely,

J. Eric Davis Jr.

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/09/2004 02:51 PM -----

william dawson
<redsprucerolfing@yahoo.com>
To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc:
Subject: Comments on draft EIS on mountaintop removal mining
01/06/2004 03:13 AM

January 6, 2004

Mr. John Forren
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear John Forren,

i am a resident of appalachia and live the land where i live. it is full of natural richness and as such has been exploited for too long, at its own expense, and also that of the country. i really dont know if it is worth telling you how disgusting the mountaintop removal is from an ecological and aesthetic standpoint. i am convinced nobody in the bush administration knows anything about science at all, conveniently dismissing the natural reality of cause and effect when their plans are at stake. do you all care about your children? i care about mine and want them to live in a clean and environmentally safe world. as americans we have the most naturally beautiful, diverse and fertile land in the world. yet we take it for granted and even with scorn. this saddens me from an administration so intent on "making us safe" from all kinds of human agencies. but then ignoring or dishonestly denying the dangers posed from environmental contamination. all our public water should be safe at least to eat the fish from, but dumping excessive amounts of mine spoil into the headwaters of our major rivers would certainly not make me feel safe eating fish downstream. i feel like i'm wasting my time with this because your administration has yet to demonstrate concern for our natural heritage or its future. sad, very sad. dont plan on getting my vote. william dawson, martinto, wv.

I am upset to learn that the Bush administration plans to continue to let coal companies destroy Appalachia with mining practices that level mountaintops, wipe out forests, bury streams, and destroy communities.

According to the administration's draft Environmental Impact Statement(EIS) on mountaintop removal coal mining, the environmental effects of mountaintop removal are widespread, devastating, and permanent. Yet the draft EIS proposes no restrictions on the size of valley fills that bury streams, no limits on the number of acres of

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forest that can be destroyed, no protections for imperiled wildlife, and no safeguards for the communities of people that depend on the region's natural resources for themselves and future generations.

The Bush administration's "preferred alternative" for addressing the problems caused by mountaintop removal coal mining is to weaken existing environmental protections. This "preferred alternative" ignores the administration's own studies detailing the devastation caused by mountaintop removal coal mining, including:

- over 1200 miles of streams have been damaged or destroyed by mountaintop removal;

- forest losses in West Virginia have the potential of directly impacting as many as 244 vertebrate wildlife species;

- Without new limits on mountaintop removal, an additional 350 square miles of mountains, streams, and forests will be flattened and destroyed by mountaintop removal mining.

In light of these facts, I urge you to consider alternatives that reduce the environmental impacts of mountaintop removal. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

William Dawson
rte. 1 box 345a
Marlinton, WV 24954
USA

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Elmer and Angela Dobson
2335 Clear Creek Road
Hazard, KY 41701
606-251-3710

John Forren
U.S. EPA (3ES30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren

This letter is the absolute truth about mountain top removal mining and valley fills. You may even say that this letter is a true environmental impact statement without the tainting of special interest, near sighted, bottom line only, non-Appalachia individuals, companies, politicians, and energy wasters.

Sir, what we are about to tell you is the truth, and you sir are invited to come and visit Appalachia at anytime to see for yourself. We understand that you and your staff probably live in a concrete jungle and that you are obviously lacking in the area of common sense and the basic knowledge that our mountains, streams, timber, and other natural resources are here for us to use not to waste and destroy. Every time you turn on a light or any other item which consumes electricity remember your electric bill only shows a small part of the actual cost. We live here and see the cost everyday. We live with land that won't grow a weed, and water that is too foul and poison for anything to drink much less live in. Anyone who would even consider weakening the current regulations which are already too weak, must have a pure hatred for their children and grandchildren. The great rainforests of the earth are disappearing at an alarming rate and every time we do so much damage to the land that it won't even grow a tree, we do damage to the environment that our grandchildren will live in. You and everyone involved are betting that there is enough coal to produce electricity to power the air purifiers that will be needed to clean the air of the world after the trees are gone. What kind of sense does that make?

Do you know that if someone went to Philadelphia and dumped selenium into your water ways, they would be arrested, have to pay huge fines and maybe even face jail time. Maybe releasing poisons such as selenium into any waterway. (Waterway: any place where water naturally runs, or collects two or more days a year.) A million dollars a day fine for every day it is not cleaned up. Are you people so ignorant that you don't realize that aquatic life is a vital part of the balance of nature? How much Aquatic life has already been destroyed? 2000 miles of streams sounds like a lot to us!

We believe that God created a special place in Hell for those of you who willingly do damage and destruction to his creations. Myself and almost everyone I know are opposed to mountain top removal mining operations and extremely opposed to the destructive, environmentally murderous, total disregard for the earth, practice of valley fills. It is disgusting and makes us mad as hell that we fund scientific studies and then ignore them when they find that leveling mountains and burying streams must be stopped. I believe that a very large law suit may be in order.

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Any law, rule, or regulation that allows mining activities of any type within 100 feet of any stream or waterway above or below ground is wrong, dangerous to all life forms downstream, and we are to no end opposed. How many scientific studies must be done before our government realizes the widespread and irreversible damage the coal industry is doing and our elected officials are continuing to allow to happen to the state of KY. and all of Appalachia.

The E.I.S. contains alternatives #1, #2, and #3. These alternatives are a bad joke. They are a direct threat to our homeland and each and every person who lives here.

If you wrong people, the environment, or the wildlife, it will eventually come back to you. How much longer do you think you can ignore scientific and other evidence of the severe harm of mountain top removal, valley filling and other unethical mining practices. You are ignoring the public demand and basic American right to have clean water to drink and use in our daily life. We all should have a right to a clean, healthy environment. We should have a right to live in communities where our homes are not shaken apart by the hands of other men. We should be safe from companies who have no regard for anything but the bottom line.

Thank You,
Elmer & Angela Dobson

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DEAR MR. FORREN

"REC'D JAN 26 2004

1-20-04

PRESIDENT BUSH'S ADMINISTRATION STILL PLANS ON LETTING COAL COMPANIES DESTROY APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN TOPS, BY LEVELING THEM FOR THIN SEAMS OF COAL. WITH THE TONS, OF NOW DIRT, WILL BE DISPOSED OF IN STREAMS, WHICH OF COURSE WILL DESTROY THERE NATURAL PURPOSE AS WELL AS DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES & MOVING VILLAGES OF PEOPLE FROM THEIR HOMES.

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THIS DISTRUSTION IS REPULSIVE TO THE EYE, DISCUSTING TO THINK ~~THEY~~ THEY'LL BE ABLE TO DO THIS ACT, & SICKENS ME TO READ OR HEAR ANYTHING REGARDING DISRESPECT TO GODS/OUR EARTH!

I PLEA WITH YOU TO DO ALL THAT YOU CAN IN PREVENTING THIS DISTRUSTION & ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO PRESERVE THIS LAND,

PLEASE,

B. Dominey

B. DOMINEY
14519 FRIAR
RESEDA, CA. 9

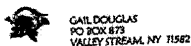
Dear Mr. Forren-

I'm disappointed & angry that the Federal Government ignored its own studies when it proposed weakening, rather than strengthening, protections for people & the environment. I do not support any of the three alternatives contained within the Environmental Impact Statement Report. All three options will make it easier for companies to destroy streams, endangering wildlife & nearby communities.

Sincerely,
Gail Douglas

REC'D DEC 29 2003

Best wishes for
a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year



GAIL DOUGLAS
PO BOX 175
VALLEY STREAM, NY 11582

The LORD your God will be
with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

August 8, 2003

REC'D AUG 16

Mr. John Forren
U. S. EPA (3EA30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren:

I would like to share my opinion with you in regards to Mountain Top Mining and Valley Fills in Appalachia. I believe Environmental groups are pushing their proposals to the extreme at the cost of thousands of jobs. You can go so far with regulations that Companies cannot afford to stay in business for the expense of trying to meet such strict guidelines.

The economy is terrible right now and the nations unemployment rate is at 6.2%. We can mine the coal and follow the current regulations that protect our air and water. The land is restored back to its natural beauty.

I think one of the biggest problems in our area is sewage that gets into our streams and rivers. The area I live is only six (6) miles outside of Harlan, Ky. and "city water" is not available. The well water is so bad, that filtering systems can't handle the iron and sulfur. I would like to see the Environmental groups look at some of these serious problems and not look at ways to force the Coal Industry out of business with stricter regulations.

The Coal Industry has supported me now for 25 years. I was able to raise my son as a single parent. I appreciate the coal miners who work very hard. For most of the miners, coal mining is and has been their life. Please support the Coal Industry in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Linda C. Downs

Linda C. Downs
P. O. Box 175
Putney, Ky. 40865

REC'D SEP 29

Dear Mr. John F. ...

Waneta Dressler here

I received the Highlands Voice today as always
I read it & went to bed.I also read Still Time & Comment. Here is my
feelings. Mountain top removal.There a mountain top removal I go to as
often as I can. There isn't any thing more
there. I say in every thing I make of
which I do not mind but, what I've noted
is everytime I visit more and more and
clear and clear the destruction of my
Beautiful Mountain is going. The mine cracks
are more close.The only place I can regain my self and
find the peace of mind is there.The bears, Coyotes, birds, Deer to mention a
few animals. How wonderful they are, How
pleasing to get see this wilderness yet.I adopted W. VA and the Mountain adopted
me. With out it I do not know what would
become of me. That Beautiful Mountain that
so trustfully granted has brought me
dedication and my self to live better me.

I just one more one word even

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need to find them seems or complete peace of
mind just go to the Mountain and spend a
few days.The stream. Is there any thing on Earth
that is more beautiful to see or hear?God then again trust him to take of them.
Our Jesus say! all the other things.My, My, how precious we must have
been to Our Lord for him to grant us,
trust him so with these precious gems
to him.I just want where I could I would stay on
God's Green Land 24/7. But I can not
afford to build what would be my refuge.
I'm a wisdom lady alone to be there 24/7/12
or I would.So if you need my name to vote to keep
Our Beautiful State clean, safe and peaceful
for all. Vote for me. If you need a better
letter let me know I'll write it.God Bless You All, God Bless West Virginia
and may always have this Almost Heaven
for Generations to come.Thank you
God Bless!

Waneta Dressler

1629 1/2 Mason St., Union Mt. 49130

10-6-2

PHOEBE A. DRISCOLL
720 Swedesford Road
Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002
(215) 699-9648
Fax: (215) 699-7300

REC'D JAN 26 2004

To John Forren
US EPA 3EA30
1650 Arch St
Phila PA 19103

1/22/04

Dear Mr. Forren -

I am appalled at the environmental
destructiveness of mountaintop mining - Please

stop it! - In addition to the environmental
damage it is a visual eyesore -

Phoebe Driscoll

Thanks for whatever you can do

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10-6-2

-- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 01:52 PM -----

Mordunlop@aol.com
To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
12/30/2003 12:46 PM cc:
Subject: for att. Mr John Forren .. please.

Mr. John Forren
Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (3EA30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr Forren,

I am e'ing from Northern Ireland. I have been involved in environmental protection issues here in N Ireland for quite a number of years. I began my career as a junior Laboratory Assistant back in 1993. Then I was involved in a base line study of Water Quality in Lough Neagh, the largest fresh water resource in Great Britain. It has saddened me to watch the water quality in what is now the major drinking water resource for the majority of the 1.3 million inhabitants reduce in quality to now being hypereutrophic with algal blooms threatning the entire ecosystem.

I receive a bulletin from 'Earthwatch'. I found a site some time ago and left my e-mail address so receive their bulletin. Mostly I delete. Today an article intrigued me. Here it is in part:
Mountaintop removal coal mining is a form of strip mining in which coal companies search for coal throughout Appalachia by literally blasting hundreds of feet off the tops of mountains, pushing millions of tons of mining waste rubble into surrounding valleys and burying hundreds of miles of streams. The Bush administration has released a draft environmental impact statement assessing the effects of mountaintop removal mining that confirms that the resulting environmental and social harms are severe and mostly irreversible. More than 1200 miles of streams already have been buried, damaged or destroyed; hundreds of square miles of forested mountains flattened; and generations-old communities of coalfield residents have been forced from their homes by this extremely destructive mining practice.

Please could you take a few minutes and explain in rational terminology the practice of mountaintop mining. I cannot imagine 'blasting hundreds of feet off the tops of mountains' ... and burying many miles of

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streams.

In my understanding blowing off mountain tops is a very considerable achievement. Burying streams is a dangerous pastime as they have usually predetermined their flow regimens and pathways and will quest to have them returned with mudslides and the like occurring as they re-establish their powerful ways.

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I will be interested in any comments.

Yours Sincerely,

Morris Dunlop.

I'm concerned that the Environmental Impact Statement draft on mountain top removal does not recommend putting a stop to the practice.

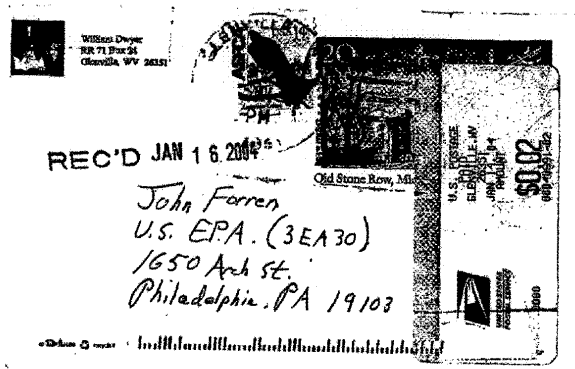
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It's a clear violation of the Clean Water Act and the Surface Mining Act to destroy mountains and fill in streams with the blasted rock as most people with common sense agree. Please enforce the law and don't cave into pressure from the coal companies and the Bush Administration. Thanks

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REC'D AUG 11 2003

*Bill Dwyer
Rt 71 Box 24
Glennville, WV 26351*



I'm not at all happy with the draft Environmental Impact Statement on mountaintop removal. It makes it far too easy for coal companies to destroy the headwaters of our rivers & streams in violation of the Clean Water Act.

*Bill Dwyer
Rt 71 Box 24
Glenville WV 26351*

5-7-2

December 31, 2003

Mr. John Forren
Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (3EA30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Email: mountaintop.r3@epa.gov

Dear Sir:

"The federal government -- with Republicans in control of the White House, Congress and the judiciary -- has launched the largest rollback of environmental law ever. The Bush administration seems determined to undo much of the good done since Earth Day 1970, when 20 million Americans defended the planet in the biggest mass demonstration in U.S. history." "Bush's 'Healthy Forests' initiative likewise suffers from Orwellian doublespeak, felling Western forests to save them. Disguised as a measure for curbing wildfires, the plan invites logging companies to cut healthy trees in national forests while reducing public oversight"¹ Now the Bush administration wants to make it easier for coal mining companies to blast the tops off mountains and dump the tons of resulting waste into the valleys and streams below. How well I can recall a gold mining operation being allowed to rip and strip here in Colorado all the while promising to protect the environment. Now it's a Superfund site. Thanks, but no thanks.

According to the draft EIS, the environmental effects of mountaintop removal are widespread, devastating and permanent. Yet the draft EIS proposes no restrictions on the size of valley fills that bury streams, no limits on the number of acres of forest that can be destroyed, no protections for imperiled wildlife and no safeguards for the communities that depend on the region's natural resources for themselves and future generations. Instead, the Bush administration's "preferred alternative" for addressing the enormous problems caused by mountaintop removal mining ignores the administration's own studies and proposes weakening existing environmental protections and allowing mountaintop removal and associated valley fills to continue at an accelerated rate.

I strongly urge you to amend the EPA's draft environmental impact statement so as to limit the effects of harmful mountaintop removal mining. I find it unconscionable that the Bush administration plans to continue to let coal companies destroy Appalachia with mining practices that level mountaintops, wipe out forests, bury streams and destroy communities.

The Bush administration must consider alternatives that reduce the environmental impacts of mountaintop removal and then implement measures to protect natural resources and communities in Appalachia, such as restrictions on the size of valley fills to reduce the destruction of streams, forests, wildlife and communities. I urge you to immediately amend the draft EIS accordingly.

Sincerely,

Craig Edgerton
854 West Battlement Parkway, H206
Parachute CO 81635

(970)285-9825

¹ George Bush's War on Nature, GLENN SCHERER / Salon 6Jan03

(Embedded image moved to file: pic29510.jpg)

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 11:18 AM -----

Craig Edgerton

<craignedgert@earthlink.net>

To: R3 Mountaintop@RPA

cc:

Subject: consider alternatives that reduce the environmental impacts

(see Document

12/31/2003 01:56 PM

enclosed)

The Bush administration must consider alternatives that reduce the environmental impacts of mountaintop removal and then implement measures to protect natural resources and communities in Appalachia (See attached file: Doc2.doc)

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Dear Mr. Forrester,

To my mind it is no less than Kaudalans that the Bush administration is allowing strip mining in Appalachia. He indirectly has no regard for decent landscape, for drinkable water and the health of the people. This monstrosity needs to be stopped and I hope that you will do everything in your power to put a stop to it.

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Sincerely yours

EDGAR EDINGER
5534 PATTILAR AVE
WOODLAND HILLS CA
91367

Edgar Edinger
5534 PATTILAR AVE
WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91367

REC'D JAN 26 2004

REC'D JAN 26 2004

5534 Pattelan Ave.
Woodland Hills CA 91367
Jan. 20, 2004

Mr. John Forren
EPA

REC'D JAN 26 2004

Dear Mr. Forren,

Some of my family lives in West Virginia & I personally have witnessed the harm done to communities in which mountaintops have been leveled due to strip mining. A tremendous problem of flooding as well as water pollution results & entire areas become uninhabitable.

As I understand it, the Bush administration is not only continuing with this practice but is further weakening regulations on coal companies. This is disgraceful & rules against strip mining need to be strengthened & environmental protections increased.

Very truly yours,
Iier Edinger

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/20/2004 09:08 AM -----

"bongodave@cox.net" <bongodave@cox.net>
To: mountaintop.r3@epamail.epa.gov
cc:
01/17/2004 01:20 AM Subject: Support clean water!

Mr. John Forren
U.S. EPA (3EA30)

Dear Mr. Forren,

Please reduce the harmful effects of mountaintop removal coal mining to protect natural resources and communities and do not weaken environmental protections that apply to the companies that are conducting mountaintop removal.

1-7

The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on mountaintop removal should be rewritten to recommend limits on the size of valley fills that bury streams and imperil wildlife.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement should not do away with a surface mining rule that makes it illegal for mining activities to disturb areas within 100 feet of streams.

1-10

Below, is part of the list, I have been sending out

To start, let me say... these are not the only ways... just some other ways.

First I must say that I have been reading that if we created a solar panel field that was one hundred square miles, that it would generate enough electricity for the United States. Even if this solar panel field had to be divided up and linked back together for logistics... If this is true... how can we deny creating this... The benefits are great and the pollution is nil and the likely hood of environmental accidents and the contamination and leaks as we have just seen, and almost seen again... or the possible spreading of contaminants by looters... and or "evil doers" as in Iraq, would be less likely.

And if these solar fields were destroyed... they would not be as big of a problem to duplicate as with reactors, and the living hell they would produce, to repair and or replace, if damaged, or destroyed. Why do we still choose the latter in this day and age? Perhaps many of our corporations are becoming out of control, cause there is no one person that "Is Responsible" And all the CEO's have to answer to stock holders... or "will be replaced". Thus creating a negative spiral downward in energy.

We must start appealing to the corporation's conscious, for doing the right thing and give recognition... and give our business to the ones that are improving and caring and are greening up. We could start some kind of honoring system, to help recognize the ones we wish to buy from or invest in. And this may help get the attention of the stockholders to get more involved and caring... This in itself would actually help the CEO's of these companies do what they invariably wish to see get done, but are afraid to bring up to there seniors for the fear of being fired.... Or worse... ridiculed and labeled as a "softy" or "Tree Hugger".

Perhaps a lot of this got out of control because of our basic egos for many years have been bred with fear. It is kind of like an on stage feedback ...where everyone is afraid to turn down the volume. What will happen if no one turns gets up to adjust it? I have never seen any case where anyone would let feedback go for more than one or two seconds to find out. Yet how long have we been letting it build up?

No one ever knows, what will happen, because it is corrected...and quickly! Though everyone FEELS that if it does not get attention, soon... it can't be good... and will obviously be very uncomfortable, until it burns out... blows up...or simply breaks down. Though, While everything is at a high fevered SQUEAL!!!!... Everyone starts to cover there ears and run! No one can prosper or even think beneficially in this feedback zone. Do you also feel we need to turn it down... and get it all back under control... where it will be more comfortable, for everyone? Then we can all get back to the fun stuff ...dancing, building, living and loving it all ...and each other.

Also we may need to be careful promoting Hydrogen as an energy source. I recently heard on a public radio talk show...the daily expert guest, telling people that hydrogen may be as bad as anything else that reduces ozone. And that no matter how much care is taken in transferring and transporting, "some hydrogen will leak out" just as all gases leak even when " they" say "they won't". And what about the possibility that we could be creating even more dangerous terrorist targets [hydrogen plants] along with the nuclear plants we don't know what to do with... and or even how to fix nuclear plants, as they are starting to find that borax is now eating holes thru these reactors, also now I see they are saying some of the parts won't withstand the pressures they thought it would. [I am afraid to look into this one]. And that the human maintenance has not been checking for these leaks, like they said they would do, or have supposedly been doing. Along with what...inadvertently, possibly, creating more hydrogen bom.

Can't we just for a while concentrate on less disastrous alternative sources such as wave, wind, and solar energy? Soon as hydrogen is accepted, corporate giants may get in and ruin it, by trying to squeeze that last almighty dollar out, by reducing safety and environmental concerns...we have that already, with reactors...it is not working... we still don't know what to do with the waste... or how to protect them from evil doers...or how to maintain them properly or maybe even how to fix them. And no one seemed to have visualized that borax would form in them and start eating holes through the metal, in places hard to reach,

and repair. And we trusted them to know what they were doing by testing these parts...which now may becoming another nightmare. They say that the person going into them to fix them will be exposed to over a years worth of radiation, Who ya gonna call?

We need to get away from instant gratification thinking. Let's Open up to something new, fresh, and renewable. The energy is already 'naturally' there begging to be used this way. Let's give it a try.

I believe if our leaders... along with the rest of the world would quickly read and or listen to these books and tapes* listed below, we would have a chance to get thru all this, swiftly and with as little grief as possible and may create a lot of good friends on the way...though I don't think Saddam Hussein would be motivated to change... I believe he is... our motivation... to change... I never read so much and so fast in my life. And I now, have learned the difference between Religion and being Spiritual, and better... how the two can compliment each other, yet, not be the same thing. More importantly, why it is so imperative that we seek to find this difference very soon...there are more reasons here than we thought. And it is really so easy to understand, the way these authors express these Universal Ideas and differences.

If you are a seeker...

This may help you find some new angles, from these Angels.

- 1) MANIFEST YOUR DESTINY [and others] Tapes or book by Wayne Dyer
- 2) * GARY ZUKAV'S book - SOUL STORIES, SEAT OF THE SOUL -Tapes or book
- 3) Or you could Listen to these audio tapes first. They may be the fastest: *THE NEW REVELATIONS-BY NEIL DONALD WALSCH along with his Friendship with God or Communion with God series or CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD
- 4) THE STARSEED TRANSMISSIONS; THE THIRD MILLENIUM; RETURN OF THE BIRD TRIBE by KEN CAREY [listen to the others first, then these]
- 5) *** HEALING THE SOUL OF AMERICA and/or EVERYDAY GRACE by MARIANNE WILLIAMSON
- 6) *THE BOOK OF CO-CREATION 'THE REVELATION' our crisis is a birth- BARBARA MARX HUBBARD
- 7) SCIENCE OF MIND - This was actually my first introduction to all of these books, tapes... and spouse. And the real conscious beginning to my life's purpose or quest. Please check out their small booklet, published monthly, that has continued the studies started by EARNEST HOLMES (this is NOT to be confused with scientology ... which we know nothing about, so we can not advise one way or another about that, please ...no offense to anyone.) This is also the way my life partner and I met ... at a Creative Life Drum Circle Thru Reverend Dr. Jesse Jennings He is the minister of the Creative Life Spiritual Center of Houston. TX. He also has an article monthly in this periodical. And it is a very good read... and is very interesting as he answers some of the most "tough" questions about the spiritual practice we all go thru in our everyday lives and he has a knack of making it all fun! And is well worth the time checking him out. By reading the periodical called SCIENCE OF

MIND-change your thinking change your life; a philosophy, a faith, a way of life. Can be ordered online at scienceofmind.com or call 800-247-6463 or check a local bookstore or library.

8] *** www.humanitisteam.com or humanitysteam.com - or look up Neil Donald Walsch, which you can check this out now. And actually help now.

9] THE LAST HOURS OF ANCIENT SUNLIGHT- THOM HARTMAN – Rachel my spouse, read this, and recommends it. I have not read it yet. Though she had introduced me to all the others...must be good. She has recommended that I include it here.

10] Carolyn Myss –Listen to anything by her, i.e. ENERGY ANATOMY, ANATOMY OF THE SPIRIT, SACRED CONTRACTS; or 'YOUR PRIMAL NATURE'

11]*** The DEAD SEA SCROLLS by GREGG BRADEN

12] 'JUMP TIME' by Jean Houston Ph.D.

13] 'YOUR PRIMAL NATURE' by CAROLYN MYSS

We need to become more a more 'all inclusive'... and less 'separatists' as a society... maybe I am wrong... I have been before...though I personally, at this time... feel...

..Instead of just saying "God Bless America". We need to think a little deeper and perhaps say "GOD BLESS US ALL"... Or "GOD BLESS OUR WORLD or God Bless our Earth"..... Or "GOD BLESS OUR UNIVERSE..."

Otherwise our image comes through as if are coming from a separatists fear base [as opposed to a love base]...as if there is not enough

GOD/LOVE TO GO AROUND to bless... everyone... let alone a whole other country.

..IT MUST SEEM LIKE A NEGATIVE REMARK TO EVERYONE ELSE WHO IS NOT

INCLUDED IN THIS "God Bless America"... 'PRIVATE CLUB'. We need to start accentuating the things we all have in common...starting with the 'EARTH'..... Though that would seem logical...yet...It also seems that we need a constant reminder of this...perhaps we could fly a FRESH NEW FLAG 'under' each countries flag. And the only requirement to fly this flag... would be... you have to belong to the Earth.... Or even more inclusive...the universe... The add-on flag could simply have a picture of the EARTH on it. Perhaps with the word 'ONE' or We are all one...or We're all in this together...something more all inclusive...across the front of it, as a constant reminder that all...what 'one' does...now...affects us all...especially now that the world seems... much 'smaller' these days. 'We are... now... all... in the same boat.' Let's not rock it" as the saying goes. Better yet lets start fixing the holes we have put in it...and start treating each other the way we would like to be treated...and we all will have much more fun sailing with a much smoother ride, with less tension. then we can all be rested and prepared to work together when the storms rise. The sale of this flag could help repair the earth and each other. From the damage we ALL did. Please read Healing the soul of America and listen to Neale Donald Walsch- They can be checked out from the library. These tapes seem to be saying everything we all have been trying to say anyhow, but without knowing how to put the words together, especially without all the dogma involved. And they have the potential to help us... help others. ..if, or

when, they ask for help, and you will know more what to say...or some things to refer seekers to.. People knowing of these modalities... CAN save our world, as we now know it. Most of all... these authors admit that these messages are not the only way..."just another way". And even better...not everyone needs to even have read all of these to make a difference in the collective conscious of the planet. It has been discovered that it only takes 10% of a population to effect a knowing in the rest. [The hundredth monkey effect] or read/listen to the LOST DEAD SEA SCROLLS for more info on this. All in all, we must remember that THE EARTH DOES NOT BELONG TO US...WE BELONG TO THE EARTH. Chief Seattle. And ...Humans are not the only ones on the Earth ...we just act like it.

These two sayings... simply put ...seem to help us bring things back to perspective swiftly. Also I noticed that Marianne Williamson, Neil Donald Walsch and Ed Asner and many many others are now endorsing DJ [Dennis John] ...Ed Asner, coincidentally, is one of the readers for the CONVERSATION WITH GOD SERIES written by Neil Donald Walsch. Please don't think that Neils book and tapes are full of dogma they are more like common sense...actually going thru his material, is more like re-membering, than learning anything knew. This is a collection of things we already know... but somehow have forgotten...yet oddly as we re-discover this information...we feel, very profound, while re-connecting with all this. They are like no other book or tapes that I have ever read or heard. And this series along with Marianne Williamsons, Carolyn Myss, Gary Zukav and Wayne Dyer may have the potential for so much healing, on such a grand scale, for everyone... that makes these best sellers. And must reads...why they don't use these in schools is almost ridiculous...it has the potential to avert grief ...almost immediately. And I don't consider it any more religious than teaching a psychology class. It is not the only way ...just another way.

Good Happens
Love Shall Prevail

dave edwards
6990 stearns road
oilmsted falls, OH 44138



Robert Eggerling
29 Oak Rd
Mertztown PA 19539-6208
Save the Redwoods League



11/18/2003



John Forren
U.S. EPA (SEA30)
1650 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

11/03/2003



Dear Mr. Forren, **REC'D DEC 30 2003** DEC 26, 2003
I am writing to comment on the EIS regarding mining practices in W.Va. - namely mountaintop removal. I feel there is no justifiable reason to allow mining companies to degrade and pollute and ruin the environment in the Appalachias. After hearing seen the P.B.S. video, Razing Appalachia, my convictions became even stronger, and I wish to remind everyone concerned with environmental protection that ^{good} stewardship of our country must be the top priority. I'm afraid the current administration does not agree, but hopefully agencies will have the balls to challenge them. Sincerely, *Robert Eggerling*
29 Oak Rd.
Mertztown, Pa.
19539

1-9

Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 10:07 AM -----

Sue Eggert
<eggerts@sparc.ecoio
Mountaintop@EPA
gy.uga.edu>
comments
01/06/2004 03:11 PM

To: R3
cc:
Subject: MTM/VF Draft EIS

6 January 2004

Mr. John Forren
U.S. EPA (SEA30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren:

Attached are my comments regarding the Draft EIS on mountaintop coal mining and valley fills. I have worked in the field of stream ecology for the last 15 years, including 12 years of conducting research (organic matter cycling and macroinvertebrate production) in headwater streams of the southern Appalachian Mountains.

I am glad that this EIS was completed. However, there are some serious problems concerning the scientific basis of statements presented in the Draft EIS. I am especially concerned about the use of qualifying words such as "potential" and "may affect" throughout the EIS, especially in light of the overwhelming scientific evidence presented in the EIS showing the negative downstream effects of MTM/VF. I sincerely hope that the authors of the Draft EIS consider my attached comments and make the appropriate changes to better reflect the scientific data gathered to date.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Eggert, Ph.D.
Department of Entomology
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602
(706) 542-7880
eggerts@sparc.ecology.uga.edu
(See attached file: MTM_VFcomments.doc)

5-6-4

3-3

Draft EIS MTM/VF comments by S.L. Eggert:

The purpose of this Draft EIS is to "evaluate options for improving agency programs under the Clean Water Act (CWA), Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that will contribute to reducing the adverse environmental impacts of mountaintop mining operations and excess spoil valley fills (MTM/VF) in Appalachia." Unfortunately, the preferred alternative focuses more on agency and mining company efficiency rather than reducing adverse environmental impacts of MTM/VF. The following items must be addressed in the final draft of the EIS:

a. Selenium contamination of waters draining MTM/VF sites has repeatedly violated provisions of the Clean Water Act and US EPA's Safe Drinking Standards (66 violations). No solution to this environmental impact has been presented in this EIS. At a minimum, selenium levels in soils to be disturbed by MTM/VF should be included as part of the permitting process. Those areas with high selenium soils should not be disturbed. The clear findings of unhealthy selenium concentrations below valley fills also should be stated in the executive summary for the public to see, rather than buried in numerous appendices. This is a serious human health issue since selenium bioaccumulates.

b. There are references throughout the EIS regarding applying "functional stream assessments to determine onsite mitigation." (i.e. ES-6, ES-7, ES-9, ES-10, II.C-51-54, II.D-6) However, no method of doing these functional assessments has been presented in this EIS. The COE Stream Assessment Protocol for Eastern Kentucky **DOES NOT MEASURE FUNCTIONAL ATTRIBUTES OF STREAMS** (examples of functional measurements include: organic matter decomposition, respiration, primary and secondary production, nutrient cycling). Text in the protocol clearly states that the COE Stream Assessment Protocol for Eastern Kentucky was not designed to measure functional attributes due to cost and inconvenience to the regulated public. "It is appreciated that a more thorough treatment of modeling stream functions may be accomplished with a more intensive effort. However, this would also take a greater expenditure of resources and may also impose new requirements on the information submitted by applicants." (Sparks, Townsend, Hagman and Messer, Aquatic Resources News: a regulatory newsletter, US ACOE, 2003) Note: this publication was not included in the Draft EIS and should be included in the final EIS. The Eastern Kentucky Assessment Protocol only measures **structural and physical** components of streams: taxa richness, EPT richness, mHBI, %Ephemeroptera, %Chironomidae + Oligochaeta, conductivity, riparian width, canopy, and embeddedness (Sparks et al. 2003). Furthermore, a stream assessment protocol developed by the Norfolk District and the Virginia DEQ also did not include functional measures of streams. (Schwinn and Culpepper 2003) [Note: this publication was not included in the Draft EIS and should be included in the final EIS.] The authors of this publication also acknowledge that this protocol does not address stream function, "Because development of a fully functional stream assessment model could take several months, there was a need for a more rapid assessment tool for the regulatory program that was still objective and quantitative. Therefore, the Norfolk District and the Virginia DEQ decided to pursue an interim stream assessment protocol that could bridge the gap between the subjective measures currently in place and a full functional assessment model. The interim stream assessment approach is not a full functional assessment model in the sense that the Corps' Hydro-Geomorphic (HGM) assessment or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Habitat Evaluation Procedures (HEP) are." "Therefore, while specific stream

ecological functions have not been identified, it is presumed that the highest sustainable ecological functions occur in the least disturbed streams relative to moderately disturbed and most disturbed stream systems." (Schwinn and Culpepper, 2003).

I applaud the fact that the draft EIS suggests that functional measurements of streams will be used to assess streams impacted by MTM/VF. The HGM method designed by the COE for wetlands is a good one and has been used successfully for wetland mitigation. Additional time and money should be spent to come up with a truly functional approach for stream assessments.

c. The total length of stream miles previously impacted by MTM/VF are underestimated in the draft EIS. In the "Landscape Scale Cumulative Impact Study of Mountaintop Mining Operations" conducted by US EPA Region 3 (Appendix I) impacted stream estimates were derived from synthetic stream networks. The authors of the study admit that their methods probably underestimate the actual number of stream miles impacted by MTM/VF, "For the data used in the cumulative impact study a contributing area of 30 acres was selected to generate a stream. There is some uncertainty in this selection given that permits in Kentucky have indicated perennial streams in watersheds smaller than 10 acres. Therefore, the synthetic stream network may underestimate stream length." They also admit that they did not verify the accuracy of their synthetic network with actual stream lengths in the field, "The synthetic stream network was not ground truthed." (USEPA 2002, Appendix I, p. 24). Furthermore, their results did not include downstream impacts to streams, "Indirect impacts to streams such as those that would occur downstream from filled or mined out stream areas were not evaluated in this analysis. As such, results of the direct impacts of stream metrics likely underestimates total impacts to streams." (USEPA 2002, Appendix I, p. iii-iv). The potential inaccuracy of the impacted stream miles (in this case an underestimate of the potential environmental damage inflicted by MTM/VF) MUST be stated upfront in the executive summary and not hidden from the public in an appendix.

d. The misstatement in the Executive Summary that, "Some streams below fills showed biological assemblages and water quality of good quality comparable to reference streams." (ES-4) must be removed from the draft EIS. Streams below fills were in good condition or better only 33% of the time according to US EPA data, (Green and Passmore, 2000 Appendix D). Unmined sites scored in the good or very good range 91% of the time (Green and Passmore, 2000 Appendix D). Actual statements from the US EPA report are below:

In contrast to the unmined sites, the filled sites scored over the entire range of conditions. Over all five seasons, the filled sites scored in the very good range 14% of the time, in the good range 19% of the time, in the fair range 53% of the time, in the poor range 12% of the time, and in the very poor range only 1% of the time. We believe the range of biological conditions found in the filled sites can be explained by differences in water quality (see section 7.0 for a discussion of the associations between biological condition and conductivity). (Green and Passmore, 2000 Appendix D).

In the seasons with complete data sets (spring 1999, winter 2000, and spring 2000), the unmined sites generally scored in the good to very good range using the WVDEP Stream Condition Index. Over all five seasons, the unmined sites scored in the very good range 72% of the time and in the good range 19% of the time (table 2). (Green and Passmore, 2000 Appendix D).

5-5-4

6-6-4

6-6-4

5-7-4

5-6-4

There is a huge difference between 33% and 91%. Clearly, valley fills negatively impact stream macroinvertebrates. **The attempt to mislead the public with respect to the negative affects of MTM/VF on aquatic biota by the authors of the draft EIS is unethical.**

6-4-4

Section I-2. Under "Purpose of the EIS" heading, "Unites" should be spelled "United." Please correct this error throughout the EIS.

e. IIC-10. According to the draft EIS, *"The SMCRA regulations do not currently contain requirements for biological monitoring or documenting physical attributes of streams."* How will adverse impacts on aquatic biota be monitored if biological monitoring is not required? Some provision for the requirement of biological monitoring should be included in the permitting process and described in the final EIS.

6-1-3

f. Monitoring and inspection. (IIC-57). This section is extremely lacking in details as to how monitoring will be accomplished. Storm water monitoring should be required to accurately quantify pollutant loading. Baseflow monitoring minimizes environmental effects of MTM/VF.

g. IID-8. "unacceptable" is spelled incorrectly. Regarding the advance veto powers of EPA in cases where it finds that mountaintop mining would have unacceptable adverse effects on certain aquatic resources, I hope that someday EPA finds the courage to exercise its CWA Section 404 (c) authority on this issue. Based on the data presented in every study associated with this EIS, mountaintop mining and valley filling causes and contributes to significant degradation of waters of the U.S., which directly violates 40 CFR 230.10(c) of Section 404 (b) of the CWA.

h. IID-9. The statement, *"Further, the EIS studies did not conclude that impacts documented below MTM/VF operations cause or contribute to significant degradation of waters of the U.S. [40 CFR 230.10(c)],"* is **completely false**. Data presented in every study associated with this EIS, demonstrated that mountaintop mining and valley filling causes and contributes to significant degradation of waters of the U.S., which directly violates 40 CFR 230.10(c) of Section 404 (b) of the CWA. To just name a few, consider the increased selenium concentrations below valley fills that violated safe drinking water standards (66 times), the increase in concentrations of sulfate, total dissolved solids, total calcium, total magnesium, hardness, total manganese, dissolved manganese, specific conductance, alkalinity, total potassium, acidity and nitrate/nitrite below valley fills, the shift from pollution sensitive macroinvertebrates to pollution tolerant ones below valley fills, the decreased mean particle size and greater number of particles less than 2 mm in size below valley fills, and the complete loss of more than 1,200 miles of headwater streams? A paragraph on page IIID.13 specifically states that there is probable cause between mining upstream and increased conductivity in stream water below the fills: *"In general, the filled and filled/residential classes had substantially higher median conductivity than the unmined and mined classes. It is important to note that the filled sites generally had comparable or higher conductivity than the filled/residential sites within a watershed, indicating that the probable cause of the increase in the total dissolved solids at the filled/residential sites was the mining activity upstream rather than the residences."*

5-5-1

i. IIIC-12. In reference to the last bullet under "Biological": The statement *"They enhance sediment transport downstream by breaking down the leaf material."* should read *"They enhance fine organic matter transport downstream by breaking down the leaf material."* This phrase should also be corrected on the bottom of page 10 of the Proceedings of the Aquatic Ecosystem Enhancement Symposium, Appendix D.

5-6-4

j. IIIC-20. The statement, *"In fact, the establishment of ponds or wetlands on benches or at the toe of mined areas may tend to limit the effect of disturbances on the downstream watersheds (Wallace, B. in EPA et al. March 20, 2000),"* is not complete. It also should be added here that B. Wallace and R. Powell stated that ponds do not replace the structure and function of original first and second order watersheds (Proceedings of Aquatic Ecosystem Enhancement Symposium, Appendix D, p. 18 and 19).

k. IIID-2. *"A cumulative impact study of the length of stream directly impacted within the study area was performed by the USEPA (2002). The stream lengths evaluated were based on the same synthetic stream network as the OSM fill inventory which includes streams located upslope from the USGS blue line streams. This cumulative impact study differed from the previously discussed studies in that the estimate of stream length impacted was based on length of stream filled and length of stream mined through. This study estimated 1,208 miles of direct impact to stream systems in the study area based on permits issued in the last ten years (1992-2002). This estimated of filled or mined through streams represents 2.05% of the stream miles in the study area."* These values of stream miles lost are underestimates based on the authors' qualifications of the methods used in the study. See my comments above.

5-7-2

l. IIID-5. *"The extent to which energy loss may be offset by input from reclamation of the mine site and adjacent undisturbed areas is unknown. Impacts that this type of net energy "change" would have on the downstream aquatic environment is uncertain and requires further investigation."* Since trees don't grow very well on reclaimed mine spoil (Handel, 2002 Appendix E), and ponds do not replace the function of 1st order streams (Proceedings of Aquatic Ecosystem Enhancement Symposium, Appendix D, p. 18 and 19), there is probably little offset contributed by reclaimed mine sites.

9-3-4

m. IIID-14. 3rd paragraph. *"This study also found very low percentages of mayflies (ephemeroptera) at this sites and elevated surface water conductivity, hardness and sulfates,"* should read, *"This study also found very low percentages of mayflies (ephemeroptera) at these sites and elevated surface water conductivity, hardness and sulfates."*

n. IIID-19. *"Creation of other ponds and wetland resources on mined land has shown more promise. Wallace (EPA 2000) suggested that these types of systems can be important sites of nutrient storage and uptake provided that a sufficiently vegetated littoral zone is present."* B. Wallace also said that ponds cannot replace pre-mining streams (Proceedings of Aquatic Ecosystem Enhancement Symposium, Appendix D, p. 19).

14-2-4

o. IIIF-3. 2nd paragraph. "Tress" should be spelled "trees"

7-5-4

p. Fig. IIIF-2. The legend for this figure has no shading on my EIS copy, so I cannot tell which

part of the figure refers to amphibians, birds, mammals or reptiles.

q. III.F-7. last paragraph. *"Species richness and abundance is lower on reclaimed grasslands than shrub/pole, fragmented forest, and intact forest habitats (Wood and Edwards, 2001)."* Species richness and abundance of what? This sentence contradicts the first sentence of the paragraph. *"Species richness and abundance of songbirds is higher in shrub/pole habitats of mountaintop mining sites than in grassland, fragmented forest, and intact forest habitats (Wood and Edwards, 2001; Canterbury, 2001)."* Please rephrase.

r. III.F-9. *"Burton and Lykens, 1975"* should read *"Burton and Likens, 1975."* This reference is not listed in the References section of the EIS.

s. III.F-16. How much carbon sequestration has been lost due to MTM/VF? Since trees do not grow to any significant degree on reclaimed valley fills (Handel, 2002, Appendix E), hasn't MTM/VF reduced carbon sequestration? Please address this question in the EIS.

t. III.G-3. Peak Flow Study. If trees are unable to survive on reclaimed MTM/VF sites (Handel, 2002, Appendix E), why bother including data regarding estimated peak flows on permitted post-mining forested sites. This scenario will never happen.

u. IV.A-3. The direct burial of stream segments by MTM/VF is not a long-term irretrievable commitment of resources if it is not permitted to occur in the first place. The direct burial of streams violates 40 CFR 230.10(c) of Section 404 (b) of the CWA. Unfortunately, US EPA is unwilling and/or unable to use its advance veto power to minimize, and/or stop the downstream degradation occurring due to MTM/VF.

v. IV.A-4. *"The loss of these reserves would not have an immediate, irreversible effect on energy production, because sufficient coal reserves exist elsewhere to meet current energy demands. However, long-term effects on energy production could occur, since rendering some Appalachian surface mining coal reserves unminable could ultimately hasten reserve depletion when other coal sources dwindle."* Other clean, renewable energy sources exist, such as wind and solar power. If these energy sources were currently being developed, long-term effects of unminable coal reserves would be offset. Please include wind and solar energy as options in this EIS.

w. IV.B-3. The statement, *"No widely-accepted, standardized testing procedures exist for measuring the presence/absence of the fine and coarse organic matter and consequent energy contributions of stream. Thus, the EIS stream chemistries studies in West Virginia and Kentucky did not document the effect of stream loss on the downstream energy continuum,"* is false. Widely-accepted, standardized testing procedures for measuring the presence/absence of the fine and coarse organic matter and consequent energy contributions of stream do exist in a book titled *Methods in Stream Ecology* (F. Hauer and G. Lamberti, 1996). It is unclear why these measurements were not included as part of the EIS studies.

x. IV.B-3. *"In the absence of standardized testing and research, it is not clear to what extent*

this direct stream loss indirectly affects downstream aquatic life. It is also not evident to what degree reclamation and mitigation (e.g., drainage control and revegetation) offset this organic nutrient reduction. The direct impacts of stream loss are permanent, but the downstream effect from organic energy loss may be temporary. The data presented in each of the studies in Appendix D directly contradict this statement. Valley fills result in a shift from pollution sensitive macroinvertebrate species to pollution tolerant species. The evidence is undisputable.

Existing CWA programs indirectly address these effects through technology-based effluent limits, state water quality standards, TMDLs, and other provisions designed to assure overall watershed health." Please explain how TMDLs address these effects. Are MTM/VF effects currently being included in TMDLs? If not, they should be.

y. IV.B-4. The statement, *"Headwater stream systems do not have a tremendous capacity to provide purification functions,"* is absolutely false based on published scientific literature (Meyer 1990, Peterson et al. 2001). **EIS Authors: please provide the scientific evidence for your statement, "Headwater stream systems do not have a tremendous capacity to provide purification functions."** If you have none, delete the statement.

z. IV.B-9. The protocol described in paragraph 3 does NOT measure aquatic function. See my comments above.

aa. IV.B-11. *"• Consistent definitions of stream characteristics and field methods for delineation; • Clarification of OSM stream buffer zone rule and development of excess spoil requirements for alternatives analysis, avoidance, and minimization; • Refined science-based protocols for assessing aquatic function, making permit decisions, and setting mitigation requirements;"* I agree with each of these statements. In particular, time, money and effort must be spent on developing a truly functional assessment protocol for headwater streams. The current protocols do not consider functional measures. There are already methods in the scientific literature designed to measure stream function (Hauer and Lamberti 1996) and there are many scientists who are already trained in these methods. Ask them for assistance with this task.

ab. IV.B-12. *"BMP's"*. Please elaborate on this topic. They are mentioned repeatedly in the EIS, but never discussed in detail. What specific BMP's would be used? Any references for these?

ac. IV.B-12. *"better integrated public participation."* Please elaborate on this topic also. How would it be improved beyond the process already in place?

ad. IV.D-4. *"Burton and Lykens, 1975"* should read *"Burton and Likens, 1975."* This reference is not listed in the References section of the EIS.

ae. IV.D-6. The biological assessment is a good idea and probably should have been done much earlier in this whole process. A complete biotic inventory of impacted areas should also be required for the permitting process.

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/07/2004 03:32 PM -----

"celse@worldbank.
org" <celse To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc:
01/06/2004 02:51 Subject: Please Stop Destructive Mountaintop
Removal Mining
PM

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

Anyone who has seen the effects of mountaintop removal mining decades after it is finished understands what total devastation it causes. I was born in Montana 50 years ago; the area near my hometown has never recovered.

Please ask the administration to use our incredible resources, technology and training to produce renewable energy sources rather than destroying vast natural resources that cannot be replaced.

Sincerely,

Clara Else
Clara Else
16517 Magnolia Court
Silver Spring, MD 20905
celse@worldbank.org

1-9

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 01:59 PM -----

"susan-emberley@m
n.rr.com" To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
<susan-emberley cc:
Subject: Please Stop Destructive Mountaintop
Removal Mining
01/06/2004 12:21
PM

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

I strongly urge you to amend the EPA's draft environmental impact statement so as to limit the effects of harmful mountaintop removal mining.

According to the draft EIS, the environmental effects of mountaintop removal are widespread, devastating and permanent. Yet the draft EIS proposes no restrictions on the size of valley fills that bury streams, no limits on the number of acres of forest that can be destroyed, no protections for imperiled wildlife and no safeguards for the communities that depend on the region's natural resources for themselves and future generations.

I urge you to immediately amend the draft EIS accordingly.

Sincerely,

Susan Emberley
9795 Woodridge Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55347
susan-emberley@mn.rr.com

1-7

REC'D DEC 24 2003

12-19-2003

Dear Mr. John Forren,

Please I am writing about
mountain top mining.

Please this destroys many
valleys, and streams.

Please tell the EPA not to
weaken environmental protections
practice of mountaintop mining.

thank you very much.

sincerely, Julie emerson

Julie M Emerson
4425 Rosecrown Ct
Fort Collins CO 80526

Environmental Protection Agency

REC'D AUG 27 2003

Mr. Forren,

8/25/2003

Emrich
Hc 73 Box 596
Pence Springs, W.V.
24962

The Environmental Impact Statement on Mountain Top Removal/Valley Fill Mining should make it clear to everyone that this mining practice must cease immediately, as it is too devastating environmentally, yet it has failed to make any such recommendation. God gave us this planet Earth with an atmosphere and habitats where life could continue and diverse species could co-exist. When the people in government and the mega' for profit' corporations see money as the only value, they lose sight of the natural balances that make the land capable of supporting life, then the people and all life falls victim to the kind of greed that will eventually render our planet incapable of supporting higher life forms and we will all suffocate together, regardless of how many big numbers of dollars a corporation or a politician or a person controls. Could it be that the love of money has created in these officials of the regulatory agencies a "blind eye"? Are they stalling for time with these studies so that when they decide to stop it is already a done deal and there is no coal left to be mined?

Burning coal and fossil fuels creates air pollution, clearing away the forests and polluting our water and oceans reduces the amount of oxygen that is replenished to our atmosphere. This practice of Mountain Top Removal/Valley Fill Mining is no less than the sale and devastation of our habitat and our home, for corporate greed to reap their false profits.

Once a mountain top has been removed, it is gone, so what is left to study environmentally? The effects that the resulting flooding and loss of good water and and living forest has on the mood and economy of the people who are trying to go on living in these devastated areas? The EIS proposal is to study how to get inter-agency co-operation so that the coal companies can speed up their operations and sell more coal faster at a higher profit, just what we the people do not need.

Gone is gone! Stop Mountain Top Removal/Valley Fill Mining NOW!

Sincerely,



LindaLeeEmrich
Pence Springs, W.V.

1-9

1-10

1-9

--- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/07/2004 03:32 PM ---

"ksenders@yahoo.com" <ksenders

To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA

cc:

01/06/2004 07:15

Subject: Please Stop Destructive Mountaintop

Removal Mining
PM

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

Please work to amend the EPA's draft environmental impact statement to limit the effects of mountaintop removal mining. I find it absolutely terrible that the Bush administration plans to continue to let coal companies destroy Appalachia with mining practices that level mountaintops, wipe out forests, bury streams and destroy communities.

We cannot continue to destroy this country of ours and allow big companies do wreck havoc wherever they please just for their own profits. What are we going to leave our children and grandchildren to cope with?

Sincerely,

Kathleen Enders
13700 SW Ascension Dr
Tigard, OR 97223
ksenders@yahoo.com

1-9

REC'D JAN 26 2004

*At Christmas Dinner 2003,
mostly sons and daughters of
coal miners saw the photo-
graph of mountaintop-
removal mining in the Appalachians.
They all were shocked, but knew
of it as another "rape" of the
coal fields and miners.*

10-6-2

*I am keeping the photograph,
and have written to politicians.
I have yet to hear from any
body. There are no words left.
Or justification.*

*Nancy M. Erps
2854 Merry Ridge Road
Princeton, WV 24740*

*Does any one care or know
about the water problem
created by such mining? Or
anyone understand?*

5-8-2

Nancy M. Erps 2854 Chesapeake Road
Princeton, WV 26749
November 25, 2003

Barbara J. Erps
253 Leaberry St.
Princeton, WV 26740
Teacher's Parent

Robert D. Erps
Rick Erps
Budger P. Erps
Jul Thome
Dana Johnson
Dennis Erps
Sarah W. Erps
Will Erps
Sue Erps
George Erps

P. O. Box 691
Fort Ashby, WV 26719
August 24, 2003

REC'D AUG 27 2003

John Forren
US EPA (3ES30)
1650 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren:

This letter is a comment on the EIS for surface mining, including mountaintop removal mining and associated valley fills.

I am appalled by the blatant attempt by the coal industry (and associated government agencies) to streamline the permit process without making any recommendations about how to prevent or lessen the substantial damage done to the environment by strip mining—effects which were noted in the EIS studies.

How sad that the EPA has become little more than an organ for big coal when it wants to rape the environment, which it has done with disastrous consequences over many years.

Whatever happened to "Protection" in your agency's title? You are supposed to work on the public's behalf to protect "our" environment. You are failing!

Sincerely,

Craig Etchison
Craig Etchison

CC: Senator Rockefeller
Senator Byrd

1-9

DeliveredDate: 01/04/2004 01:20:28 PM

Please stop destroying the Appalachian Mountains. More money needs to be spent on
alternative energy sources. Kaeneva
@frontiernet.net

1-13

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 01:58 PM -----

"aevans@doc.state
.vt.us" <aevans
cc:
01/06/2004 03:33 Subject: Please Stop Destructive Mountaintop Removal
Mining
PM

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

It's outrageous that the Bush administration plans to permit the destruction of Appalachian valleys and streams by coal companies' use of mining practices that level mountaintops, wipe out forests, and dump huge amounts of debris in streambeds.

According to the draft Environmental Impact Study, the environmental effects of mountaintop removal are widespread, devastating and permanent. Yet the draft EIS sets no limit on the forestlands and streams that can be destroyed, and offers no protection for imperiled wildlife nor safeguards for the communities that depend on the region's natural resources for themselves and future generations.

The Bush administration ignores its own impact studies and proposes weakening already-existing environmental protections. Don't let this happen!

Sincerely,
Alice M. Evans, Ph.D.

Alice Evans
p.o. box 266
Waitsfield, VT 05673
aevans@doc.state.vt.us

1-5

1-10

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/07/2004 03:32 PM -----

"73514.254

@compuserve.com"

<73514.254

To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA

cc:

Subject: Please Stop Destructive Mountaintop

Removal Mining

01/06/2004 08:54

PM

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

I strongly urge you to amend the EPA's draft environmental impact statement so as to limit the effects of harmful mountaintop removal mining.

It is not acceptable that the Bush administration plans to continue to let coal companies destroy Appalachia with mining practices that level mountaintops, wipe out forests, bury streams and destroy communities.

I urge you to immediately amend the draft EIS accordingly.

Sincerely,

McNair Ezzard

PO Box 7040

Van Nuys, CA 91409

73514.254@compuserve.com

DeliveredDate: 01/06/2004 09:45:17 AM

I am writing to express my opposition to mountaintop removal and valley fills and any change in the rule protecting stream buffer zones. I'm disappointed and angry that the federal government is ignoring its own studies by proposing to reduce protections for people and the environment. I demand a new study that looks at the alternatives to prevent new mountaintop removal and valley fill operations and to stop the existing ones within 5 years or by the expiration of the current mining permit, whichever date occurs first.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Gaye Evans
107 West Main Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

1-9

1-10

1-9

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/07/2004 03:42 PM -----

p_farino@yahoo.co
m To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc:
12/25/2003 10:58 AM Subject: No mountaintop removal for coal

Mr. John Forren
U.S. EPA (3EA30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren,

Stop destroying the Appalachias with mining practices that level
mountaintops, wipe out forests, bury streams, and destroy
communities.

1-9

Sincerely,

Pete Farino
1625 Grasscreek Dr.
San Dimas, California 91773

cc:
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative David Dreier
Senator Dianne Feinstein

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 01:59 PM -----

Peter Farino
<p_farino@yahoo.c To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
om> cc:
Subject: NO MORE MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL

FOR COAL

01/04/2004 10:29
AM

January 4, 2004

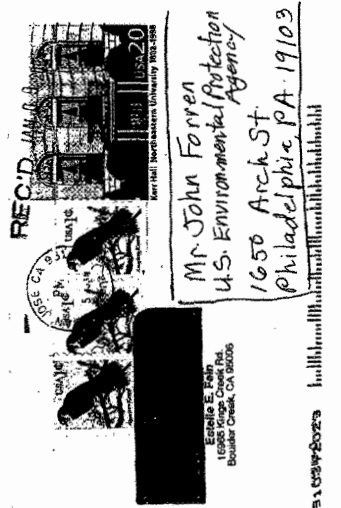
Mr. John Forren
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear John Forren,

STOP DESTROYING OUR MOUNTAINS, FORESTS, AND STREAMS. | 1-9

Sincerely,

Peter Farino
1625 Grasscreek dr.
San Dimas, CA 91773
USA



1/5/04
 Dear Mr. Forren:
 Please consider the impacts of your planned mountaintop removal plan. Your own C.I.S lists devastating outcomes of this "preferred alternative". Surely the damage to streams & forests & the communities surrounding them is not worth the backwards step - letting coal men determine our energy future.
 Double Creek Rd
 Boulder Creek CA 95006

1-10

Robert Fener
 1011 Swapping Camp Road
 Amherst, Virginia 24521

REC'D AUG 13 2003

August 8, 2003

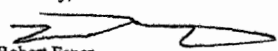
John Forren
 U.S.EPA (3EA30)
 1650 Arch Street
 Philadelphia PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren:

Regarding the EIS on Mountaintop Mining and Valley Fills in Appalachia, I will make my comments brief. NO!!!!!! Coal, despite a great ad campaign is not a clean safe power source. I'm sure you are quite aware of the health ramifications of coal fired power plants. Additionally the air pollution is wiping out our forests and countless species. To then say it is economical and wise to level mountains and then fill up valleys with the waste is just insane. Few will profit and many more will suffer. It is time we take a stand for sanity in our national energy policy and yes, my house is entirely solar powered with photovoltaic panels.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,


 Robert Fener

1-9

Robert Fener
1011 Swapping Camp Road
Amherst, Virginia 24521

REC'D DEC 29 2003

Mr. John Forren
U.S. EPA (3EA30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

December 24, 2003

Dear Mr. Forren:

Regarding Mountaintop Removal, I will be brief and to the point. The Bush plan is bad science. Coal has destroyed Appalachia. Coal fired power plant pollution has impacted our air, soil and waterways. Pollution is killing our forests and is the leading source of mercury, which is endangering anyone who eats fish. Coal is an obsolete technology in view of alternative energy sources. I live in Virginia in a home entirely dependent on the sun for heating, hot water and photovoltaic electricity. Yes I do use backup systems, but two hours of generator run time for the last eight months is not too bad. To not think mountaintop removal is a major ecological disaster is to show a level of stupidity that is aggressively ignorant.

1-9

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,


Robert Fener

REC'D JAN 05 2004

January 2, 2004

Dear Mr. Forren;

Mountaintop removal is devastating to the environment and communities. Our government must not continue to allow coal companies to destroy Appalachia with mining practices that level mountaintops, wipe out forests and destroy communities.

1-9

Our government must consider alternatives to MTR and implement measures to protect our streams, wildlife, forests and communities. Please listen.

Peace,
Denise Ferguson
313 Curper St
South Charleston, WV 25303

Steve Fesenmaier

<fesenms@wvlc.lib.wv.us> To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc:
Subject: Comment on Mountaintop Removal Mining
08/14/03 02:10 PM

Mountaintop Removal Mining has to be strictly regulated according to the current existing laws.

Watershed should be maintained and all downstream damaged should be minimized. During the last decade the WV state government has not enforced the existing laws. This negligence should be stopped immediately.-

Steve Fesenmaier 907 Churchill Circle Charleston, WV 25314
(304)345-5850

(See attached file: fesenms.vcf)

1-13

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 01:59 PM -----

"figel@alum.mit.edu" <figel@alum.mit.edu> To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc:
01/06/2004 12:33 PM Subject: Please Stop Destructive Mountaintop Removal Mining
PM

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

Please amend the EPA's draft environmental impact statement to limit the effects of harmful mountaintop removal mining.

As a Colorado resident, I've seen the effects of irresponsible mining practices in various sites along the Rockies. Irresponsible mining does irreparable harm to the native wildlife and the resultant mine tailings contaminate the watersheds that supply our drinking water.

If the Bush administration lets coal companies destroy Appalachia by not amending the EPA's impact statement; while also putting more mercury into the environment through relaxed regulations, there can be no claim that anyone in the White House cares about the health of all our sons and daughters.

I urge you to immediately amend the draft EIS accordingly.

Sincerely,

Arthur Figel
Arthur Figel
3370 15th St
Boulder, CO 80304
figel@alum.mit.edu

1-9

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/07/2004 03:42 PM -----

"fishkend@earthlink.net" <fishkend@earthlink.net>
 To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
 cc:
 01/06/2004 12:33 PM Subject: Please Stop Destructive Mountaintop Removal

Mining

PM

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

Stop destroying the mountains of Appalachia in search of coal with no regard for the environment! You must amend the EPA's draft environmental impact statement. Stripping of mountain tops is devastating and permanent.

Get a clue, the days of oil and coal are numbered. Put the time, energy, and resources into transitioning to other fuel sources.

Consideration,
 Patrice Fisher
 5709 Fallsgrove Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90016
 fishkend@earthlink.net

1-9

Gerry and Louise Fitzgerald
 398 Carlyle Road
 Martinsburg, WV 25401

January 2, 2004

Mr. John Forren
 US EPA
 1650 Arch St
 Philadelphia PA 19103

REC'D JAN 05 2004

Dear Sir:

I am writing you on the issue of mountain top removal. This is an issue of particular concern for West Virginians. For generations West Virginians have supplied this nation with abundant coal. This natural resource, while dangerous to extract, provided a decent living for the people of West Virginia. Now the coal companies have found a way, via mountain top removal, to take even this marginal life from us at the same time destroying our very homes.

Mountain top removal has devastated our environment by reducing the very mountains themselves, filling our valley streams and cutting vast acreages of timber. All these actions have had a severe impact on the lives of local communities. Jobs are lost because this method of coal extraction employs far fewer people than deep mining. The losses of jobs mean communities disappear. Those that remain are damaged further by the blasting. Next come the rains. Floods occur because there is no vegetation on the mountains and stream valleys have been filled. This is usually the final blow to a community.

Do not be fooled by promises of reclamations and flat land for development and new homes. Nothing but an imported weed will grow on this "reclaimed" land. The forest is gone and cannot be replanted in this depleted soil. Who will open new businesses and buy the homes projected to come to this reclaimed land? There are no people because there are no jobs and the communities are gone.

Mountain top removal benefits no one but the coal companies. It leaves in its wake a devastated environment and abandoned communities. Do not make it easier for those who despoil our state. Mountain top removal should be prohibited for it violates many current environmental laws. Please uphold what your agency is pledged to do and protect the environment.

Sincerely,

Gerry Fitzgerald
Louise Fitzgerald

1-9

-- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/06/2004 03:55 PM -----

ASD <asd@eva.org>
To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
01/02/2004 03:59 PM cc:
Subject: mountaintop removal mining practices

January 2, 2004

Mr. John Forren
US Environmental Protection Agency
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

Dear Mr. Forren:

I was shocked to learn of the EPA's plan to allow mountaintop removal mining practices to be accelerated and expanded.

Many studies of the impacts of mountaintop removal, including President Bush's own Environmental Impact Statement, make clear how much damage is done to homes, streams, forests and fishing and wildlife through this practice. The proposed new rules will increase all of these problems by eliminating limits on the size of Valley fills and by reducing a 100 foot stream zone protection area.

Mr. Forren, I live in Appalachia where this mountaintop removal takes place. Since moving here in 1978, I've seen the scars which this kind of practice leaves. I have numerous friends who make their living in the coal industry and I am a strong supporter of economic development throughout the coalfields. But economic development need not and should not continue to occur at the expense of the environment, local farms and local communities.

I urge you to seek another alternative, one which places strong limits on this highly destructive practice and allows local communities to maintain and build upon the natural resource base which they have.

Thank you,

Anthony Flaccavento

Executive Director

Appalachian Sustainable Development

1-10

1-7

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 01:59 PM -----

BettyB.Fleming@ve
rizon.net To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc:
01/06/2004 03:00 PM Subject: Appalachia Considerations

Project Manager John Forren
U.S. EPA (3EA30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Project Manager Forren,

It is unconscionable that the Bush administration plans to continue to let coal companies destroy Appalachia with mining practices that level mountaintops, wipe out forests, bury streams, and destroy communities.

Please reconsider both the environmental and political consequences on this practice.

Sincerely,

Agatha (Betty) Fleming
456 Riverside Drive
Princeton, New Jersey 08540-5421

cc:
Senator Jon Corzine
President George W. Bush
Vice President Richard Cheney
Representative Rush Holt
Senator Frank Lautenberg

1-9

Catherine Fleischman

Date: 1/07/2004

City: Canton State: VA Zip: 23123

Live as comfortably as we do coal, and timber have been harvested from this state since its inception. The legacy of this harvest is now left to the residents. We have the choice of living with the remaining ecosystems or destroying them for the coal left in the ground. It makes absolutely no sense to me to remove a mountain for what we know is a very inefficient poisonous fuel that we already have the technology to avoid using. It is just plain to expensive to sacrifice what is pristine and beautiful for something we do not need and need to do without. Please let it be known to this organization that Mountain Top Removal for coal is the worst way to support a sustainable comfortable economy. West Virginia will be much better off saving these mountains, streams and communities for low impact farming and recreational industries.

1-9

Sincerely,
Catherine Fleischman
1304 Sports Lake Road
New Canton, VA. 23123

DeliveredDate: 01/04/2004 06:06:12 PM

As a woman, mother, grandmother and American I must state that I am opposed to mountaintop removal mining and valley fills!

1-9

Please, will our grandchildren or their children see any beauty in America?

Marsha Fishman
1275 Bradford
Coppell, TX 75019

Impoundment above Sundia

Photo provided by Janet Fout, Speaker # 17 on 7/24/03 Charleston Eve



Valleyfill near a community

| 10-9

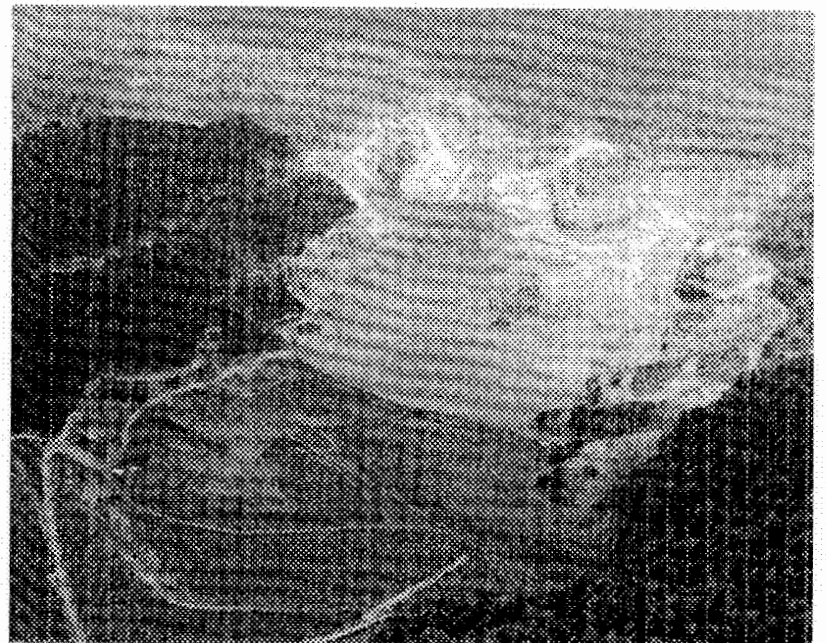
Photo provided by JANET FOOT, SPEAKER #17 ON 7/24/03 CHARLESTON EVENING SEE

| 10-6-5



Brushy Fork impoundment

Photo provided by JANET FOUT, Speaker #17 on 7/24/03 Charleston Evening



January 1, 2004

John Farver
U.S. EPA (38030)
1650 Arch. St.
Philadelphia Pa., 19103

REC'D JAN 05 2004

Dear John -

I'm appealing to you as a Human Being not.
I've already attended court hearings, commented
hearings. I've testified and begged the congress
and legislative and regulatory agencies all the
no avail.

That 5,000 page study has already concluded
that Montanish removal is already destroying
approach to stream - I wrote so why aren't you
responding with concrete restrictions on permits.
You're in danger of losing your credibility as
are our other representatives.

Either you must printed the statement
as your name indicates or come out of
the closet and change your name to
Corporate Protection Agency as most our
Congress - Legislative and our President
and our religious community.

(over)

1-5

It's really up to you. My children and
grandchildren are going to pay the price for
the decisions you make now.
George Bush has already shown his colors.
He wants to be the selfish emperor for
his ambitions.

William Rehnquist made his decision.
He was on one tree ally who cares about the
planet and its inhabitants. He now heads up
another agency.

We are at the crossroads now. Either we
stop and clean up the world or keep on
destroying it.

What we are doing now is immoral
and unacceptable and we must take
responsibility for it.

Sincerely,

Winnie Fox
2687 East Ave
Huntington W.Va.
25702

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/07/2004 03:42 PM -----

"lufrank@comcast.net" <lufrank@comcast.net>
 To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
 cc:
 01/06/2004 12:21 PM Subject: Please Stop Destructive Mountaintop Removal

Mining

PM

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

Please amend the EPA's draft environmental impact statement so as to limit the effects of harmful mountaintop removal mining. My grandkids would like to find valley streams that still have live fish! Why has the EPA lost its conscience????
 Sincerely,

Luther E. Franklin
 19510 SE May Valley Rd
 Issaquah, WA 98027
 lufrank@comcast.net

1-9

I support Mountain Top Removal and Valley Fills because:

1-11

1. We have lived in this area all of our lives and we do not see the devastation the environmentalists complain about. Our water is relatively clean. Untreated Sewage is the biggest problem for clean water.

2. The economic base of Eastern Kentucky depends upon Coal Mining. Most of us work in mining or a related business. The economy of the southeastern U.S. depends upon energy from Kentucky Coal.

11-1-2

3. The habitat for wildlife is not destroyed, it is enhanced. The Elk, Deer, Turkey and smaller animals are more abundant than they have been for 100 years.

7-2-2

4. The percentage of land disturbed by mining is very minute as a whole and the Reclamation Laws provide for this land to be adequately restored.

5. Much Surface Mining today is the re-mining of lands mined prior to the Surface Mining Act. Reclamation today is much, much better than before the Act, and sediment control is actually better because the erosion from the old mining is uncontrolled. All fills and slopes are now properly engineered and vegetated and therefore safer.

19-3-2

6. Many of the people who oppose surface mining do not even live here or in an area where mining is the economic base that people depend on it for their livelihood. They have no right to tell us what to do.

7. Many of the people take the luxury of Electricity for granted. If it wasn't for coal mining they would either be living in the dark or paying a lot higher prices for that same luxury. Other methods of providing Electricity have been proven to be more dangerous, causing more problems to the environmental system and more expensive.

Tim Frasine
 Chief Engineer
 Bledsoe Coal Corporation
 James River Coal Company
 P.O. Box 31
 SLepp, Ky 41763

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/07/2004 03:42 PM -----

"vfrazz@juno.com"
 <vfrazz To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
 cc:
 01/07/2004 10:24 Subject: Please Stop Destructive Mountaintop
 Removal Mining
 AM

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

I strongly urge you to amend the EPA's draft environmental impact statement so as to limit the effects of harmful mountaintop removal mining. I find it unconscionable that the Bush administration plans to continue to let coal companies destroy Appalachia with mining practices that level mountaintops, wipe out forests, bury streams and destroy communities.

Sincerely,

Vincent Frazzetta
 169 Platt St. 108
 Milford, CT 06460
 vfrazz@juno.com

1-9

REC'D DEC 0 1 2003

November 24, 2003

John Forren
 U.S. E.P.A. (3EA30)
 1650 Arch Street
 Philadelphia, P. 19103

SUZAN FRECON
 (Member Linnaean Society of NY)
 298 Clinton Ave # 3
 Brooklyn, NY 11205

Shale Brownstein, Conservation Chair
 Linnaean Society of New York
 15 W 77 Street
 New York, N.Y. 10024

re:mountain top mining/ valley fill DEIS

Dear Mr. Forren:

The Linnaean Society, a group of interested naturalists with more than 500 active members, hopes for a moratorium on mountain top mining.

The habitat destruction wrought by the proposed mountain top coal mining will destroy thousands of acres of mature hardwood forest in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Tennessee. There will certainly be immense damage to the Cerulean Warbler population.

8-2-2

Awesome scenes of mountain top removal involve more than the disappearance of the headwaters of mountain streams and the filling in of an adjacent valley. Many species are severely disrupted and the ecological damages will of necessity extend to a considerable distance from the mining operations.

9-2-2

This Appalachian region of the eastern United States will suffer ugly pockets of noise, dust, and disfigurement. The extensive losses already suffered will be greatly extended in ways that will even more permanently alter the land. We think that the current draft environmental impact statement has failed properly to assess the impact of the future changes, which are already being actively implemented. The mining of the immense area in this fashion is going forward without sustained serious consideration of the social and ecological losses that follow in the wake of this one time removal of available coal.

9-4-2

We plead for a moratorium.

We hope that reflection will give time for us all to study the conflicting claims of residents, visitors, and environmentalists about the future of these irreplaceable mature hardwood forests.

1-9

Only the imposition of a moratorium on the mining can offer the chance to modify seriously the proposed coal extraction, which will change everything forever.

Sincerely

Shale Brownstein, Linnaean Society of N.Y.

and
 Suzan Frecon
 concerned citizen actually
 horrified that such destructive and
 desecrating acts against our land are allowed !!

13 Pinyon Pine Road
Littleton, CO 80127

REC'D JAN 22 2004

Mr. John Forren
U.S. EPA (3EA30)
1650 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren,

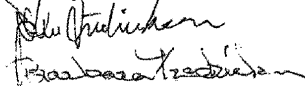
I do not support Alternative 1, 2, or 3 as described in the draft EIS report. None of these options will protect Appalachian forests, water, or communities. In particular, I oppose the proposal to eliminate the stream buffer-zone rule that prohibits mining activity within 100 feet of streams. This rule should be strictly enforced for valley fills and in all other cases.

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1-10

Leveling mountains and burying streams is wrong and must stop.

Sincerely,



The Fredrickson Family

RMF
Forren/R3/USEPA/US00EPA
net>
removal mining
<rfrith@comcast.
To: John
cc:
Subject: mountain top
01/02/04 06:59 PM

Dear Mr. Forren,
I am concerned to learn that there are proposed changes by the Bush Administration to relax or do away with the rule that mining impacts must not come within 100 feet of streams. Mining companies must be held accountable for the environmental damage that they do- we should not be making it easier for them to destroy and pollute. Please keep the stricter standard in place. Thank you for your attention.

1-10

Rachel Frith
4768 Millhaven SE
Kentwood MI, 49548

Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 12/18/2003 05:21 PM -----

greenwolf@neto.co
m
Mountaintop@EPA
12/12/2003 12:09 PM
Draft programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on mountaintop removal coal mining
To: R3
cc:
Subject: Comments on removal coal mining

that the cumulative impact of the destruction caused by mountaintop removal is addressed.

| 9-2-2

Sincerely,

don gaines
rt # 1 box 66
annona, Texas 75550

Mr. John Forren
U.S. EPA (3EA30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren,

I am writing to urge the Bush administration to protect our mountains and streams from mountaintop removal coal mining. I am outraged that the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on mountaintop removal proposes no limits on this destructive practice, even though the study clearly concludes that the environmental effects of mountaintop removal are devastating and permanent.

I understand that the draft EIS concludes that more than 1,200 miles of streams have been damaged or destroyed by mountaintop removal. It also concludes that 1.4 million acres of forests could be impacted, along with as many as 244 species of wildlife. Finally, it says that without additional limits, another 330 square miles of mountains, streams and forests will be destroyed by mountaintop removal.

In light of these clear facts, I am shocked that the draft EIS states that the Bush administration's preferred alternative is to WEAKEN existing environmental protections. It would allow mountaintop removal and associated valley fills to accelerate by proposing to streamline the permitting process. And it proposes to roll back an important surface mining rule that prevents coal companies from disturbing areas within 100 feet of streams. This "preferred alternative" ignores your own studies detailing the devastation caused by mountaintop removal coal mining!

I urge the Bush administration to consider alternatives that reduce the environmental impacts of mountaintop removal, and to implement those measures needed to protect the environment and communities of Appalachia. In particular, I urge the administration to consider restrictions on the size of valley fills to reduce stream and forest loss. These alternatives must be evaluated for individual projects as well as regionally so

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1-8

9-2-2

REC'D AUG 22 2003

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/07/2004 03:42 PM -----

"pash@commspeed.net" <pash@commspeed.net>
To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc:
01/06/2004 01:00 PM Subject: Please Stop Destructive Mountaintop Removal

P.O. Box 255
White Sulphur Springs
WV 24986
August 15 2003

Mr. John Forren USEPA
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia Pa 19103

Dear Mr. Forren,

Mountaintop removal is not good for our fair state. We depend on you to protect our environment and make sure our land is used as nature intended it to be used.

1-9

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

Please change the EPA's draft environmental impact statement to limit the effects of mountaintop removal mining. It is NOT OK to allow coal companies to destroy mountaintops, forests, streams and communities. Alternatives can and must be found. It is wrong to support the profits of coal companies without first considering the health of people and environment.

1-9

Sincerely,

Pash Galbavy
400 Loy Lane
Sedona, AZ 86336-9187
pash@commspeed.net

Thank you,

Francis J. Gallagher
Francis J. Gallagher

REC'D AUG 26 2003

Sr. Marie Gangwish
2000 Saint Anne Dr.
Methuen, KY 41059-9602

August 21, 2003

Dear Mr. Forren,

My Comments about the Environmental Impact Statement on Mountaintop removal and valley fills are:

1. I am very much opposed to Mt-top removal and to valley fills. This just weakens the laws that protect clean water

1-9

2. I oppose the proposal to change the stream buffer zone that prohibits mining within 100 feet of streams.

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3. I oppose the EIS report because it ignores the scientific report about the harmful effects of leveling the mountains and burying our streams.

1-5

4. I do not support the Alternatives #1, 2, or 3 contained in the EIS report because they do not protect our water or our communities.

I do hope some commonsense will be used before more damage is done to our mountains and streams.

Sincerely,

Sister Marie Gangwish

MOUNTAINTOP MINING EIS COMMENTS

Submitted by:

J. Steven Gardner, P.E., P.S.
Engineering Consulting Services, Inc.
340 South Broadway, Suite 200
Lexington, KY 40508
859-233-2103

The debate over the legality of Mountaintop Mining (MTM) has now raged for many years and some have attempted to turn it into a morality play. Issues of morality are present in many aspects of our lives and not surprising people disagree on what is moral and what is not. Many good people disagree on several fundamental issues from what is marriage or relationships between two people to what is a just cause to go to war. Emotional pleas to ban MTM have been made. Just because someone says something is true does not make it so. This is a technical issue and engineering and scientific facts should prevail.

MTM SPECIFICALLY ALLOWED UNDER SMCRA

MTM is a mining method that the United States government is largely responsible for creating. I happened to have been starting my tenure in the engineering community when the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) was passed under President Carter. This act contemplated and specifically allowed and encouraged MTM. R&D under the Carter Administration's DOE, EPA and BOM helped develop and refine MTM. I know because I helped work on several projects funded by those agencies.

LONGSTANDING AND ACCEPTED PRACTICES ARE SUDDENLY DECLARED ILLEGAL

12-1-1

The mining industry has been operating for almost 30 years with the understanding that these practices were legal and even encouraged by the government. Full resource recovery and higher land utilization is one of the goals of SMCRA. Many in industry also felt that SMCRA was designed to provide a coordinated approach to permitting sites that crossed agency and regulatory program lines to avoid just the types of problems that have now occurred: i.e. a continual reinterpretation of regulations and insertion of personal beliefs.

MTM IS TRULY A FORM OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MTM areas provide one of the keys to the economic future of Appalachia. One point being missed in the public debate is APPALACHIAN LANDOWNERS WANT MOUNTAINTOP MINING! Landowners must approve any plan for MTM or it cannot take place. Developments have been created and landformed all over Central Appalachia including hospitals, schools, golf courses, airports, industrial parks, prison sites,

10-3-2

residential and commercial developments, farms, recreation and wildlife areas, all of this in a region where level land is scarce. MTM is bringing many things to Appalachia that other regions take for granted. Some people see these sites today and do not know they resulted from mining. Wildlife is now more abundant than it was 30 years ago. Mining has actually helped create wildlife habitats and the resurgence of wildlife populations.

10-3-2

ROCK AND DIRT ARE NOT NECESSARILY WASTE IN THE EPA CLASSIC SENSE

Much has been made of the controversy over filling streams. Mining can be compared to road construction. Material placed in hollow or valley fills has been called waste; a term adopted by engineers over the years, but not waste in the connotation presented. It is simply excess rock and dirt placed in engineered and managed fills. Streams are not lost forever. The water is still there, however new flow paths are created. The vast majority of these areas are in the upper reaches of a hollow where typically there is no water flow, comparable to drainage ditches or curbs that control the flow of water in cities.

5-7-2

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The recent EPA EIS on MTM found that only 6.8% of Appalachia has or even can be mined by MTM methods, so I hardly think Appalachia is being "decapitated" as many editorialists claim. Rather MTM as I have seen it can be described as creating "plateaus" of useable land where there was none. As an Environmental Practitioner, I strongly support Alternative III, as outlined in the EIS as the preferable approach. I feel that "MOUNTAINTOP MINING IS A VALUE ADDED PROCESS".

1-4

J. Steven Gardner, P.E., P.S.
Engineering Consulting Services, Inc.
340 South Broadway, Suite 200
Lexington, KY 40508
859-233-2103
sgardner@engrsvcs.com

J. STEVEN GARDNER, P.E., P.S.

Mr. Gardner is President/CEO of Engineering Consulting Services, Inc. headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky. He holds graduate and undergraduate degrees from the University of Kentucky in Mining Engineering and Agricultural Engineering, respectively, plus a graduate level Environmental Systems Certificate. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, and Tennessee, and a Licensed Professional Surveyor in West Virginia. His twenty-eight years of experience includes Bethlehem Steel mining operations in Kentucky and U.S. Coal Co. in Tennessee. He has worked as an engineer and manager in both mining operations and consulting engineering, as well as having served on a mine rescue team. His consulting practice focuses on mining and quarry operations, due diligence studies, sensitive land use issues, reclamation liability, environmental, health and safety issues, and industrial heritage projects. He was a co-editor and contributor to the "Coal Mining Reference Book" published in 1997, served as a reviewer of the National Research Council's publication, "Coal Waste Impoundments; Risks, Responses, and Alternatives" and is a continuing contributor to www.coaleducation.org. Mr. Gardner is active in the Society of Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME) and just completed a three year term as Vice President of the Southeast Region, member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for the 12,000 + member organization. He was the 2003 recipient of the SME Government, Education and Mining (GEM) Award given in recognition of "...enthusiastic support of GEM activities and for educating the public by partnering with school districts and university systems to provide more information about the mining industry." He was recently appointed to the Kentucky State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors by the Governor.

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/09/2004 03:54 PM -----

Dawn Garten
<dawn@wmbinc.com> To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc:
01/06/2004 01:47 Subject: Comments on draft EIS on mountaintop removal
mining PM

January 6, 2004

Mr. John Forren
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear John Forren,

I am a citizen of Kentucky, born and raised here. I have grown up with the effects of coal mining a harsh reality in my life. It is not fair that my people and the quality of our lives are sacrificed for the production of electricity. I whole heartedly agree with the draft statement below these, my own words. However, I wanted to add my own words so that you can put a human being with this request. Before you undo the protections that have been provided for our land and people, I urge to visit Eastern Kentucky, particularly Chavies in Perry County, where I am from. It is a beautiful place. You need to drive in so that you can see the beauty, and fly out so you can see the devastation. Visit with my grandmother, but be sure to wipe the seat clean before you sit, as the layer of coal dust on the chairs will stain your clothing. And as you wipe that out and you look into the eyes of an old woman who has worked hard to be a good mother and wife all her life, consider that the filth you prevent from getting on the seat of your pants coats her lungs and took the life of her husband and killed her first born son. And then try to put the good of coal against the bad. It is clear that your administration feels that sacrificing American lives for a 'greater good' is a necessary evil; we are, after all, at war. But defense from weapons of mass destruction and sacrificing lives for the production of electricity, they cannot be compared and to do so is an insult to the lives of the Kentucky men and women who have lost their lives in the present and past wars; people who were fighting for the rights of their families, only to have those rights set aside for the plundering of their land and their lives.

I am upset to learn that the Bush administration plans to continue to let coal companies destroy Appalachia with mining practices that level mountaintops, wipe out forests, bury streams, and destroy communities.

According to the administration's draft Environmental Impact Statement(EIS) on mountaintop removal coal mining, the environmental effects of mountaintop removal are widespread, devastating, and permanent. Yet the draft EIS proposes no restrictions on the size of

valley fills that bury streams, no limits on the number of acres of forest that can be destroyed, no protections for imperiled wildlife, and no safeguards for the communities of people that depend on the region's natural resources for themselves and future generations.

The Bush administration's "preferred alternative" for addressing the problems caused by mountaintop removal coal mining is to weaken existing environmental protections. This "preferred alternative" ignores the administration's own studies detailing the devastation caused by mountaintop removal coal mining, including:

- over 1200 miles of streams have been damaged or destroyed by mountaintop removal;

- forest losses in West Virginia have the potential of directly impacting as many as 244 vertebrate wildlife species;

- Without new limits on mountaintop removal, an additional 350 square miles of mountains, streams, and forests will be flattened and destroyed by mountaintop removal mining.

In light of these facts, I urge you to consider alternatives that reduce the environmental impacts of mountaintop removal. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Dawn Garten
3300 Tahoe Rd
Lexington, KY 40515
USA

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10-4-2

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----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/30/2004 11:21 AM -----

Comcast Mail

<gartlan@comcast.net> To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA

cc:
Subject: Please oppose mountain-top removal mining and valley fills!
01/12/2004 11:50
PM

Mr. John Forren
U.S. EPA (3EA30)
1650 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

I am completely opposed to mountaintop-removal mining and valley fills. The massive damage wrought upon people and the landscape as a result are unacceptable. These practices bury important headwater streams, destroy biologically rich forest ecosystems, damage drinking-water sources used by millions of people, cause frequent and severe flooding, and wreck the quality of life in Appalachian communities. Leveling mountains and burying streams is wrong and must stop.

1-9

I welcome scientific studies that document the widespread and irreversible damage the coal industry is doing to Appalachia. Yet this EIS rejects—without meaningful consideration—specific restrictions on the use of valley fills. These restrictions could be based on size of the fill, cumulative impacts, types of streams affected, or value of the aquatic resources in the region.

1-7



I am opposed to any changes that would weaken the laws and regulations that protect clean water. In particular, I oppose the proposal to eliminate the stream buffer-zone rule that prohibits mining activity within 100 feet of streams. [Alternatives 1 and 3 would eliminate the rule, while Alternative 3 would "clarify" it by saying that it does not apply to valley fills.] This rule should be strictly enforced for valley fills and in all other cases.

1-10

I do not support Alternative 1, 2, or 3 as described in the EIS report. None of these options will protect Appalachian forests, water, or communities.

1-5

Thank you,
Niall Gartlan

12/18/03
Dear Mr. Forren,
 Lydia Garvey
429 S 24th St
Clinton OK 73601-3713
Boo! to the extremely
inadequate Draft EIS on mountaintop
removal - that continues the
extreme environmental
destruction! Are our wildplace
& waterways paramount to
trash to treat so I'm
abhorred by such degradation
& failure of the EPA to
protect the environment. Do
your job! - I strongly urge
the EPA to strengthen - not
weaken environmental
protection. Go renewable, sustainable.
Americans want clean
water, clean air & wildplaces!
Nature is sacred - she supports
us - with her we'd be nothing.
The price for short-term profit
is much too high.
Your attention to this most
urgent matter would be much
appreciated by all future
generations of all species.
hcm
REC'D DEC 22 2003


4-2

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Box 215
Mabscott, WV
25871

Oct. 9, 2003

Mr. John Forren, US EPA
1650 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19130

REC'D OCT 15 2003

Regarding the EIS on mountaintop removal:

I grew up on a dairy farm in Eastern Ohio. We had strip mines all around us; they left behind highwalls, deep ponds where almost nothing lived, orange water in the creeks, and a land that would barely grow pokeberries, let alone trees.

When I moved to Whitesville, WV in 1976, I thought, "they know how to mine coal here." The mines were deep in the mountain, the creeks and rivers below them didn't seem to be polluted, and whole communities were based on those mines.

After living away from WV for 20 years and then coming back in 1999, I realized that strip mining had come back, with bigger everything. I couldn't believe the Coal River Valley. It was gone. The places I used to hike and canoe are now either flood-ravaged or filled with rock and rubble. I visited Larry Gibson's place on what is left of Kayford Mountain. Even his dead relatives aren't safe there, the flyrock bouncing off the headstones and the graves sinking from the mountain being cut away from the cemetery.

I have followed closely the attempts by WV Highlands and Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition and others to slow this destruction, and the attempts by the coal companies and all their business and political cronies to speed it up. So regarding this document, which ideally would itemize mtr's effects and provide alternatives, it smells badly.

I disagree with all 3 alternatives provided by this statement. They are not alternatives at all, to anyone who loves the land.

I am offended that this proposes to do away with the provision for no mining within 100 feet of streams.

I propose another alternative; embrace the spirit of the clean water act and decide that if coal cannot be mined economically by underground mining, leave it in the ground.

Yours Truly,

Glenn Gaskill
Glenn Gaskill

John Forren
U.S. EPA (3ES30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

REC'D JAN 23 2004

1-19-04

Dear Mr. Forren,

I am writing to express my concern about the recommendations of the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) on mountaintop removal and valley fills. With the documented harm that mountaintop removal has caused water, wildlife, forests, and communities in Kentucky and the Central Appalachian region, I find it appalling that the EIS recommends weakening environmental protections. Removal of the buffer zone that protects streams from the impacts of coal mining is a step backward; furthermore, none of the possible alternatives identified in the EIS offer any options that will prevent the devastation caused by mountaintop removal.

I am opposed to any weakening of environmental protections. I am opposed to the recommendations of this study, which ignore the scientific evidence of the destruction caused by mountaintop removal. I hope that the U.S. government and EPA will take the necessary steps to prevent this destruction and to protect nature, wildlife, and people.

Suzanne Gayetsky
353A Woodland Ave.
Lexington, KY 40508

REC'D JUL 24 2003

7-17-03

7/17/03

John Forren
US EPA (SES30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103

In your Environmental Impact Statement & Forest Management Plan, please include strategy to STOP MOUNTAIN TOP REMOVAL, valley fills, logging, burning/mining/mowing, herbicides and recreational vehicles plus heavy equipment use in our forests! These practices, AKA environmental terrorism, are an attack on each one of us as well as on our precious home, mother earth. Mother nature is not just a spendable resource. It's the centering force in our web of vital life forces. There is no earthly reason to control the awesome forces of the natural world to live together wisely on this earth at peace with ourselves.

1-8

Very truly yours,

Mary Gee
Ms. Mary Gee
565 Cane Run
Lexington, Ky. 40505

December 15, 2003

Mr. John Forren EPA
U.S. EPA (3EA30)
1650 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

REC'D DEC 18 2003

Dear Mr. John Forren EPA,

It is unconscionable that the Bush administration plans to continue to let coal companies destroy Appalachia with mining practices that level mountaintops, wipe out forests and bury streams in the valleys below. Mountaintop removal mining and valley fills should not be allowed and the laws and regulations that protect clean water must not be weakened. In particular, I oppose the proposal to change the stream buffer zone rule that prohibits mining activity within 100 feet of streams. This rule should be strictly enforced for valley fills and in all other cases.

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I am a native of West Virginia and still have relatives whom I visit often. I am proud of my heritage and I love my native state. I am sickened by this display of corporate greed and total disregard for human life and our need for clean water.

YOU MUST not allow this destruction to continue because there is ample evidence that the practice of filling valleys and streams with waste is damaging to the environment and the communities of Appalachia. Please do not weaken the laws that are meant to protect Appalachians but please enforce regulations and hold mining companies accountable for their actions.

All humans need clean water please do not change the stream buffer zone rule. Our streams need our protection.

Please help do the right thing for our children's future. I urge you to reject this proposed rule change and do all in your power to protect the Appalachian mountains.

Sincerely,

Melissa Gee
Melissa Gee
111 View Dr
Boone, NC 28607-7951

Please help!

REC'D JAN 20 2004

Stop mountain top
removal. Forever.
It hurts Mother Nature
and all living beings.

Ban Mountain top
removal. Forever.

14404 Ms. Gee, 565 Cane Run, Lex, Ky. 40505

1-9

Dan Geiger

<dgeiger@jrcsc.ne To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
> cc: "Wilson, Jeff"
<jawilson@jamesrivercoal.net>, "Caylor, Bill"
<bcaylor@miningusa.com>
08/14/03 04:10 PM Subject: Draft EIS on mountaintop coal
mining and associated valley fills in Appalachia

John Forren
U.S. EPA
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19403

Dear Mr. Forren:

Please accept these comments concerning the draft mountaintop EIS and include them as part of the public comment record.

I am Vice President, Engineering at James River Coal Service Company, a subsidiary of James River Coal Company (JRCC). JRCC operates underground coal mines in six East Kentucky Counties and employs some 1000 people.

11-1-2

The valley fill controversy has been characterized as effecting mainly mountaintop removal surface mining. It has even been said that ceasing mountaintop mining would be no loss because the coal and employment could be replaced by underground mining. This is simply not true.

Underground mines depend on valley fills just as much as surface mines. Deep mined coal is mixed with extraneous material, mainly sandstone, shale, and clay. This raw coal is too high in ash and too low in heat value to be sold to electric utilities and must be processed to remove the impurities.

The resulting rock and coal/clay fines must be disposed of in a safe, permanent, economical location. Due to the mountain/valley topography of Appalachia, the only practical place to store this material is at the heads of valleys in refuse piles and coal slurry impoundments.

13-3-5

It has been suggested that this material could be used to backfill old high walls or placed on reclaimed mountain top mines. While this might

be practical occasionally, usually it is not. Coal preparation plants are generally built in valleys while surface mines are usually a considerable distance away, both horizontally and vertically.

Most alternate schemes can be made to work if cost is not an issue. If deep mines have no practical method of waste disposal, they will be uncompetitive in the market place and cease to exist. Deep mines need valley fills.

Dan Geiger, P.E.
Vice President, Engineering
James Rive Coal Service Company
1374 Hwy 192 E.
London, KY 40741-3123

13-3-5

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 11:39 AM -----

"Andy J. Gelston"

<ajg@ConceptsNrec.com> To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA

cc: Subject: Please amend the draft EIS on mountaintop removal coal

mining

01/05/2004 01:36
PM

Mr. John Forren
Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (3EA30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Email: mountaintop.r3@epa.gov
Dear Mr. Forren,

Please consider amending the EPA's draft environmental impact statement to limit the environmental impact of mountaintop removal mining. I was surprised to learn that the Bush administration plans to relax existing limits.

The draft EIS posits that the environmental effects of mountaintop removal are widespread, devastating and permanent, so the draft EIS should contain restrictions on the size of valley fills, limits on the number of acres of forest removed, protections for wildlife habitat, and comprehensive planning for the local communities that depend on the region's natural resources. With the modern underground coal mining technologies available today, I see no reason why the Bush administration proposes weakening existing environmental protections and allowing mountaintop removal and associated valley fills to be accelerated.

The Bush administration would better represent the public's interest by implementing alternatives that reduce the environmental impacts of mountaintop removal and protect unmined natural resources and communities in Appalachia. Please amend the draft EIS in accordance with the E and P of your agency's anagram.
Best regards,

Andy Gelston<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns =
"urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />
Contract Specialist
CONCEPTS NREC

1-10

1-5

Corporate Headquarters
217 Billings Farm Road
White River Junction, VT, USA 05001-9486
TEL: (802) 296-2321 ext. 226 FAX: (802) 296-2325
E-mail: ajg@conceptsnnec.com

visit us at: www.conceptsnnec.com

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----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/07/2004 03:42 PM -----

"mikeg@iit.edu"
<mikeg To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc:
01/06/2004 05:21 Subject: Please Stop Destructive Mountaintop
Removal Mining
PM

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

Mr. Bush:

As a supported in some respect and not in others I am pleased and dishearted by your decisions over the past several years. Please do not allow this type of coal mining to take place. I have removed the rest of this automated letter because I'm sure you got several million to date. Thank you for your time if anyone read this. :)

1-9

Sincerely,

Mike George
13802 S. Pflumm Apt 207
Olathe, KS 66062
mikeg@iit.edu

January 19, 2004

John Forren
U.S. EPA (SES30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

REC'D JAN 23 2004

Dear Mr. Forren,

I oppose mountaintop removal and valley fills and any change in the buffer zone rule. I am disappointed and angry that the federal government ignored its own studies when it proposed weakening, rather than strengthening, protections for people and the environment.

The EIS report was intended to outline options that would "contribute to reducing the adverse environmental impacts of mountaintop removal operations and excess spoil valley fills in Appalachia." The report documents the extensive environmental damage caused by mountaintop removal and valley fills, and yet the Bush administration used the EIS process to propose rule changes that make it easier for coal companies to get permits for mountaintop removal and to eliminate protections for streams. The recommendations contained in the EIS report are a shame and a failure to the American people. They will not protect our stream and forest ecosystems, and they will not protect our communities.

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In fact, the recommendations have no relation to the problems caused by mountaintop removal mining and valley fills as documented in the studies.

I am angry that the EIS report rejects, without meaningful consideration, specific restrictions on the use of valley fills. There is abundant scientific evidence and a very strong legal case for taking a position that leveling mountains and burying streams is wrong and must stop. I am opposed to any changes that would weaken the laws and regulations that protect clean water. In particular, I am opposed to the proposal to change the stream buffer zone rule that prohibits any mining activity that is within one hundred feet of streams.

I welcome the scientific studies that document the widespread and irreversible damage that the coal industry is doing to my home state of Kentucky. I do not support any of the three "alternatives" contained within the EIS report. None of these options will protect our water or our communities. This report is a shameful, dangerous gift from George Bush to the coal industry. It ignores the science and evidence about what mountaintop removal mining is

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doing and ignore's the public's demand
for clean water, a healthy environment,
and safe communities.

I appreciate your consideration of
this issue, and I hope that you will do
what is right for your fellow citizens.

Sincerely,

Megan Gibson

Megan Gibson
264 Lynnhurst Pl, Apt. 3
Lexington, KY 40508

REC'D JAN 02 2004

12/3/03

Mr. John Farn - US EPA (3EA30)

I opposed to mountaintop removal valley fill
It's impossible and can't be environmentally
safe.

1-9

Larry L. Glen

Drawes WV 25054

1-304-542-1134

REC'D DEC 29 2003

Mr. John Forren
U.S. EPA (3EA30)
1650 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

December 20, 2003

Subject: Please Stop Destructive Strip-Mining

Dear Mr. Forren,

I recently read an article about the horrible conditions both for the people and the environment that are being created in the Appalachian mountains through the practice of strip-mining. Streams are being heavily polluted or even buried. Surrounding forests are destroyed. The health of the people in the region is declining as well. The ever-present dust in the air in some areas causes people to develop asthma or other lung problems.

1-9

Strip-mining may be a major source of income, but what is being lost in the process? American citizens in this area are suffering to send coal and the majority of profits out of their community. Irreparable environmental damage is being done as well.

Please, I ask that you do what is right and protect the people and environment of Appalachia. I do not support Alternative 1, 2, or 3 as described in the draft EIS report. None of these options will protect Appalachian forests, water, or communities. In particular, I oppose the proposal to eliminate the stream buffer-zone rule that prohibits mining activity within 100 feet of streams. This rule should be strictly enforced for valley fills and in all other cases.

1-5

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Leveling mountains and burying streams is wrong and must stop. Please act for the people and the land.

Sincerely,



Christopher Goddard
18012201 Rawlings Hall
Gainesville, FL 32612

3815 Brookview Road
Austin, TX 78722-1323
January 19, 2004

Mr. John Forren
Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Mail Code 3213A
Washington, DC 20460

REC'D FEB 05 2004

Dear Mr. Forren:

I oppose the proposal to change the stream buffer zone rule that prohibits mining activity within 100 feet of streams. This rule should be enforced for valley fills.

1-10

I cannot imagine why the federal government is proposing to continue allowing coal companies to destroy a functional, beautiful part of our country by blowing up mountaintops and forests, and dumping that land in the rivers below.

The laws and regulations that protect America's land and clean water must not be weakened, as this practice does—they should be strengthened.

Last summer, my husband and I went on a car and camping vacation through West Virginia. Mountaintop removal will ruin the health and beauty of the land and water of that state plus others. This in turn will hurt the state's economy.

1-9

I strongly oppose this terrible practice and the further proposed rule change to remove whole pieces of mountains and ruin the forests, rivers, and valleys. This benefits only a few people—the principals of mining companies.

Surely compassionate conservatism doesn't include this! I want my tax dollars spent on protecting America's wonderful natural land, wildlife, water, and air resources.

I urge you to oppose the mountaintop/dumping practice.

Sincerely,



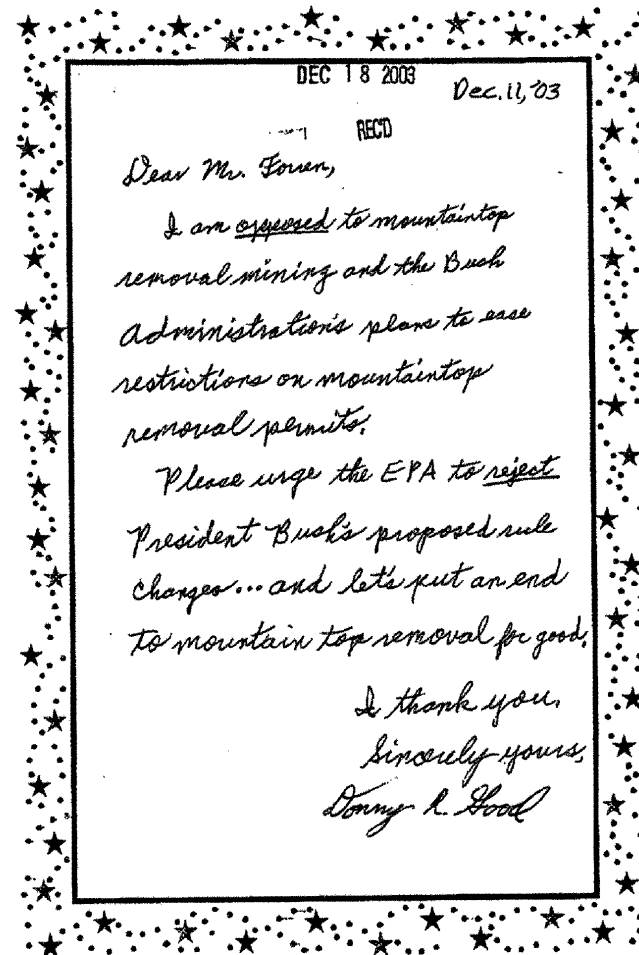
Gay Goforth

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 08/21/03 11:08 AM -----

CGoodwoman@aol.co
m To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc:
08/14/03 03:40 PM Subject: Mountain top removal comments

PLEASE STOP MOUNTAIN TOP REMOVAL.
Crystal Good
8 Arlington Ct
Charleston WV 25301

| 1-9



| 1-9

| 1-10

| 1-9

Mr. Joanne H. Granzow
255 Gordon Rd.
Dayton, OH 45419-3484

JANNE GRANZOW

Jan 12, 2004

Mr. John Forren
U.S. EPA
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA

REC'D JAN 20 2004

Dear Mr. Forren,

I am writing to express the opinion
that blasting the tops off our mountains
and the resulting destruction to the
land & watershed, in order to mine
coal, is an unconscionable act!

Diminishing the existing law
(policy) compounds the problem.

Additionally, we should be seeking
alternative fuels, rather than
polluting fossil fuels.

Where are our ethics? Joanne Granzow

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"REC'D AUG 28 2005

Lexington Herald Leader

I was appalled to read that the environmental agency is now considering mountain top removal (strip mining) for coal.

Our country is coming apart at the seams now. Why add insult to injury!

Do those in power realize what the consequences are, not only now but also for years to come to our mountains and the folks that live in those areas.

Homes are destroyed by mud slides and flooding time after time. Nature took care of the problems of erosion and disasters until the strip mining was done several years ago. It is taking years to recover and repair what was lost then.

It will not help the economy for the ones that need the help but only line the pockets of the big corporations.

Our roads, railroads, education and energy are being neglected, as is everything else in our own country. We know where the funds are going but isn't it time we took care of our own?

I am disappointed in our representatives for not making our state a priority and put party lines on the back burner for just a little while. Kentucky people have elected them and their loyalties should be to them.

We citizens must open our eyes and see the havoc that is upon us. Our country we once knew is slipping away!

We are Americans.

We have shown strength before.

Let us speak out and get involved!

Katherine M. Green

Copy to:

John Forren

U.S. EPA (3E530)

1650 Arch Street

Philadelphia, Pa. 19103

Rep. Ernest Fletcher

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

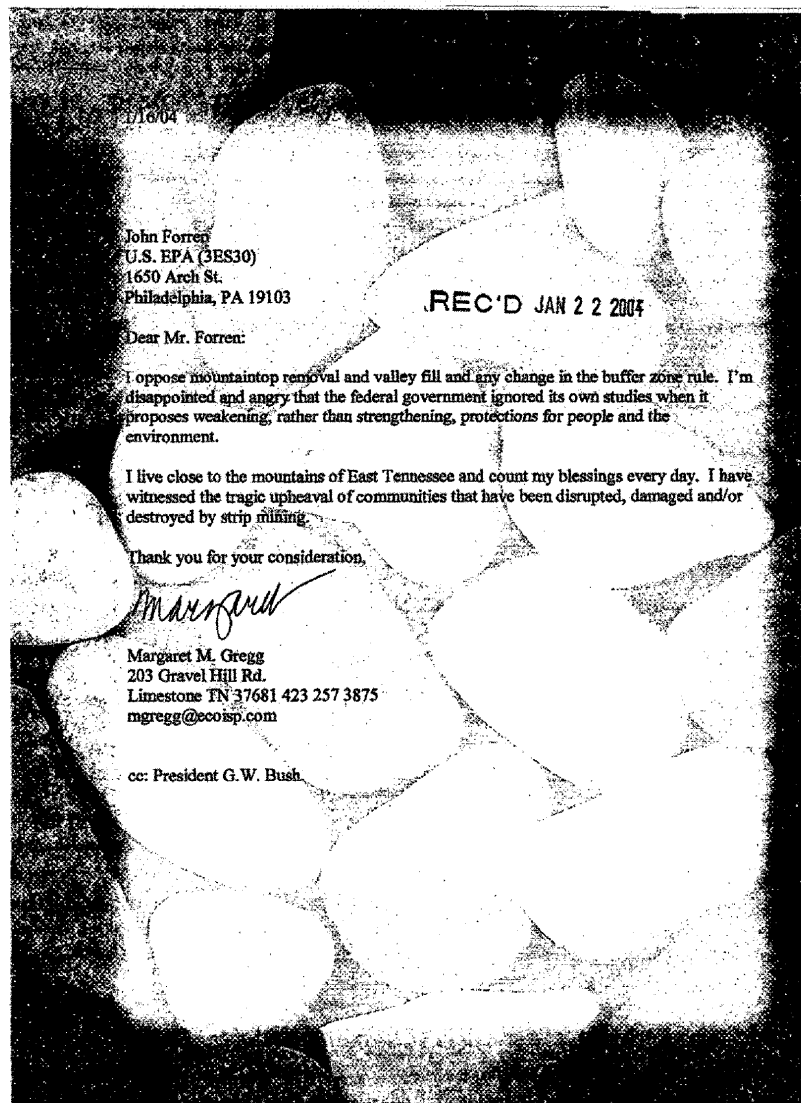
Pres. George Bush

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Washington, DC 20500

1-10



REC'D SEP 08 2003

Robert Gipe
P.O. Box 1394
Harlan, KY 40831

John Forren, US EPA (3ES30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren:

I live in Harlan County, Kentucky at the headwaters of the Cumberland River. We have had nearly a hundred years of coal mining in our community. We have very little clean water. We once had plenty.

The draft environmental impact statement on mountaintop removal published recently by the Bush administration is a slap in the face of everyone who needs water to survive. It is a malicious, poisonous, shortsighted, misanthropic, hateful, greedy, anti-democratic document.

I pray that the people who put it before the public will live long enough to see the errors of their ways and correct them. I pray that the people who wrote this document never have to drink the greasy black water that comes out of the spigots of people in the American coalfields. I pray that they never have to pull their sleeping children out of a home flooded as a result of rain on poorly reclaimed strip jobs.

My message to President Bush and all the formulators and enforcers of his self-serving, callous, cynical, dangerous energy policy is this: I support none of the proposed alternatives in your environmental impact statement. I oppose Mountaintop Removal Mining. Enforce SMCRA the way it was written. Enforce the Clean Water Act the way it was written.

Good people don't have to get sick and die just so this country can have electricity. We can do better. Pursue alternatives.

Elected officials are supposed to look out for the interests of all the people—not just their fraternity brothers, family friends, and corporate cronies. Quit acting like gangsters and start acting like statesmen. Or pursue another line of work.

Sincerely,

Robert Gipe
Robert Gipe

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It is the property of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

This document is the property of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Karen Grubb

<kgubb@mail.fscw.edu> To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc:
Subject: Mining EIS
08/20/03 12:12 PM

Mr. John Forren, US EPA
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130

Mr. Forren,

Mountaintop Removal destroys streams, contaminates drinking water, causes flooding, makes moonscapes out of the beautiful Appalachian Mountains -- some of the world's oldest mountains, causes blasting damage to residents homes, air pollution to residents, destroys hardwood forests and wildlife habitats, destroys Appalachian culture and heritage, defies the executive order regarding environmental justice for low income people, destroys jobs and is environmentally insane.

Mountaintop Removal should be stopped now! The recommendations in the EIS Statement are a sham in that they ignore the scientific evidence and recommend speeding up the process in permitting mountain top removal. No economic gain can justify the process of mountaintop removal.

Karen Grubb
21 Beverly Circle
Fairmont, WV 26554

Robert Hallick
Date: 1/02/2004
City: West Reading State: PA Zip: 19611

I am happy to learn that the Bush administration plans to continue to let coal companies change Appalachia with mining practices that level mountaintops, wipe out forests, bury streams, and help communities. It is important to do mining for resources, as long as the replanting of trees is in effect the mining could very well help the beautification of our countries mountains. In light of these facts, I urge you to consider alternatives that increase the environmental impacts of mountaintop removal. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

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REC'D JAN 07 2005

January 3, 2004

Mr John Forren,
US Environmental Protection Agency
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr Forren,

I received an email from an organization Save Our Environment yesterday that has truly upset me. The message sent me described the intention of the Bush administration to continue to allow coal companies to destroy the beauty of Appalachia with mining practices that level mountaintops, clearcut forests [destroying trees AND wildlife habitat], bury precious irreplaceable streams, and destroy communities.

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According to the administration's proposed draft environmental impact statement [EIS] on mountain removal coal mining the environmental effect of mountaintop removal are widespread, devastating, and permanent.

PLEASE be exceedingly careful in the decisions made regarding our precious natural environment. All life should be held sacred. We are damaging beyond repair the earth upon which we depend for our existence.

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PLEASE do not allow the Bush administration to weaken existing environmental protections in order to benefit corporate interests.

I ASK YOU NOT TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR COAL MINING CORPORATIONS TO OBTAIN PERMITS TO ALLOW THIS FORM OF MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL COAL MINING.

1-9

According to the administration's own studies over 1200 miles of streams have already been damaged or destroyed by mountaintop removal. The loss of forest in West Virginia will directly impact wildlife habitat for as many as 244 wildlife species. an additional 350 sq miles of PRECIOUS mountains, streams and forests will be permanently altered or destroyed IF ALLOWED by your agency. In addition to the ecological devastation being done please take into SERIOUS consideration that generations-old communities of coalfield residents have already been forced from their homes by these destructive mining practices. please do not sacrifice the land and the people (as well as their children and grandchildren) who have lived on the land simply for the benefit of mining interests.

The earth, and generations to come will be affected by your decisions regarding this matter. Please consider alternatives that will lessen the environmental impact of mountaintop removal. Thank you for your serious consideration of this very important matter. In sincerity,

Emilie Hamilton
Emilie Hamilton
PO Box 52/11 Putney Rd.
Leverett, MA 01054
413-548-9328

John Forren

US Environmental Protection Agency

1650 Arch St.

Philadelphia, PA 19103

REC'D NOV 17 2003

November 8, 2003

Dear Mr. Forren,

I am writing to request that you do what you can to keep Mountain Top Removal (MTR) regulations in place - especially 30 C.F.R. 16.57 that prohibits mining activity within 100 feet of a stream. Even this regulation is too lenient and allows too much destruction. Please restrict the size of valley fills and require companies using MTR methods to strictly follow the Clean Water Act. No loopholes should be created for MTR. Hundreds of miles of Appalachian streams and forests have been buried in rubble by MTR. Companies say that the streams can trickle out from under the "toe" of the valley fill (i.e. giant rubble pile).

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They also say that many streams are not large enough to worry about.

Entire ecosystems depend on those streams. Even if the water does trickle out, the stream's temperature and flow are irrevocably changed.

This leaves economically and culturally important fish (such as trout) to die.

This summer, I worked as an Office of Surface Mining intern for a local watershed group and I saw first hand the damage that poorly regulated mining causes. My ~~home~~ State - West Virginia - is paying the price for the rest of the country's so-called prosperity. You do not live in West Virginia, so you do not have to live with the blighted landscape or the environmental (and economic) devastation that MTR causes. I do live here. I was born here, it is my home. Please protect it by strictly regulating MTR.

Thank you.

Hann J. Hann
P.O. Box 334
Independence, WV 26374

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 01:58 PM -----

Karl Hanzel
<karlhrdc@khaos.com>
To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc:
Subject: Strengthen draft EIS on mountaintop removal coal mining
01/05/2004 02:02 PM

January 5, 2004

Mr. John Forren
Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (3EA30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren,

Bush & CO. is an environmental nightmare! Please amend the EPA's EIS so as to limit the effects of disastrous mountaintop removal mining!

Sincerely,

Karl Hanzel
736 Wagonwheel Gap
Boulder, CO 80302
USA

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 02:01 PM -----

"wpa@swva.net"
<wpa@swva.net>
To: R3
Mountaintop@EPA
cc:
Subject: Please Stop
Destructive Mountaintop Removal Mining
01/06/2004 08:57 PM

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

I am stating my firm opposition to the EPA's draft concerning mountain top mining. I am against this practice and have seen the devastation this process creates. The Bush administration needs to come up with healthy, safe, environmentally safe alternatives to this method. Please look at the obvious horrific examples of destruction this has caused in our country, as well as others. I am sending a message of an adamant NO to mountaintop mining. Thank You.

Alice Hardin
1073 Christiansburg Pike
Floyd, VA 24091
wpa@swva.net

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 01:52 PM -----

Jerry Hardt
<jhardt@foothills.net>
To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc:
Subject: EIS statement MTR
01/05/2004 10:02
AM

John Forren
U.S. EPA (3ES30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren,

Given the findings of the EIS released last May and my own observation and experience, I find it absurd that the Bush administration is proposing to ease restrictions on mountaintop removal mining. I encourage EPA and the administration to reject all the alternatives presented in the EIS and move toward a ban on surface mining in steep slope areas and the elimination of valley fills.

An interim step in this direction would be to simply enforce the law as it now exists.

The preferred alternative represents a total abrogation of the EPA's responsibility to protect the environment and safeguard human health. It is a total sell-out to big-money interests at the expense of the people who live in the Appalachian coalfields. It is a statement that people don't matter and that the administration does not care if the people of eastern Kentucky and West Virginia have any future.

I encourage you to read your own study. Pay attention to the findings that the environmental effects of mountaintop removal are widespread, devastating, and permanent. Pay attention to the fact that eliminating valley fills would have a minimal economic impact, especially when compared to the massive negative impacts of not banning valley fills. Remember that we are not just talking about dirt and rock, we are talking about peoples' homes and communities.

Don't play with peoples' lives and futures as political favors. Reject the EIS recommendations, strengthen environmental protections and enforce the law.

Jerry Hardt
P.O. Box 697
Salyersville, KY 41465
606-349-2593

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/23/2004 09:38 AM -----

William Hardy
<bilihardy@yahoo.com>
To: R3
cc:
Subject: Mountaintop
Removal Mining
01/14/2004 05:21
PM

William Hardy
PO Box 102
Uniontown, WA 99179

January 14, 2004

John Forren
US EPA (3EA30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Forren:

I support, as do millions of other Americans, any decision this administration may come re. this issue.

Sincerely,

Bill Hardy

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Mr. Forren,

REC'D OCT 28 2003

I have lived here in the same place for fifty-nine years, and watched the coal industry destroy our mountains with blasting, destroy streams with runoff from mines and preparation plants, destroy our roads with overloaded coal trucks, destroy our homes and lives with flooding caused by broken impoundments, and ruin our health with coal dust. My families water well went dry sixteen years ago because of mountain top removal blasting. I worked in the coal mines here for thirty-one years until I was disabled three years ago and had to retire. I am firmly against mountain top removal coal mining.

1-9

Sincerely,

Roy B. Harless Jr.
HCR 78 Box 5324
Barrett, WV 25208

Roy B. Harless Jr.

Environmental Impact Statement on Mountaintop Removal

Dear Mr. Forren:

My name is Ronda Harper and I live in Huntington, WV. My family's homeplace is in Lincoln County, WV. Our property on the Mud River was once surrounded by beautiful mountain wilderness, but it is quickly becoming a tiny island paradise surrounded by mountaintop destruction. The hollows where my grandmother and grandfather, mother, and uncles once walked, gardened, and hunted are gone. Most of the streams where my cousins and I waded and swam as children are gone. As I walk along the one last remaining stream on our property I find frogs, turtles, and salamanders. My heart breaks for them for soon they will be buried beneath valley fill. Birds and wildlife are being driven away along with families who can no longer bear the blasting near their homes and breathing the clouds of black dust. Our family is trying desperately to hold on to our beautiful homeplace, but the coal company is making this VERY difficult. West Virginians who live near MTR sites have been driven out, flooded out, and forced to sell out. Mountaintop removal has to stop.

1-9

email
Rondcat5@aol.com
org
Ronda Stollings Harper,

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 01:58 PM -----

DeliveredDate: 01/04/2004 03:55:29 PM

Mark Harris
<mth1234@yahoo.co To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
m> cc:
Subject: Fix draft EIS to protect streams from mountaintop removal
01/01/2004 07:40
PM

My name is Ronda Harper and I live in Huntingotn, WV. My family's homeplace is in Lincoln County, WV. Our property on the Mud River was once surrounded by beautiful mountain wilderness, but is it quickly becoming a tiny island paradise surrounded by mountaintop destruction. The hollows where my grandmother, grandfather, mother, and uncles once walked, gardened, and hunted are gone. Most of the streams where my cousins and I waded and swam as children are gone. As I walk along the one last remaining stream on our property I find frogs, turtles, and salamanders. My heart breaks for them for soon they will be buried beneath valley fill. Birds and wildlife are being driven away along with families who can no longer bear the blasting near their homes and breathing the clouds of black dust. Our family is trying desperately to hold on to our beautiful homeplace, but the coal company is making this VERY difficult. West Virginians who live near MTR sites have been driven out, flooded out, and forced to sell out. Mountaintop removal has to stop.

1-9

Dear Mr. Forren,

I strongly urge you to add provisions to the EPA's draft EIS that will prevent destruction of streams by mountaintop removal mining.

Although the draft EIS recognizes the problem of valley fills that bury streams, it proposes no restrictions on the size of those valley fills.

Rather than act on your own studies, which recognize the problem of valley fills that bury streams, you are proposing a "preferred alternative" that weakens existing environmental protections and allows valley fills to continue at an accelerated rate.

I urge you to follow through on the Bush administrations stated commitment to clean water by adopting alternatives that stop destruction of mountain streams by mountaintop removal mining and then implement those measures.

Sincerely,
Mark Harris
PO Box 682375
Park City, UT 84068

1-10

1/2/04

Dear Mr. Forren,

REC'D JAN 05 2004

I wanted to let you know that I am disappointed by the conclusions of the draft programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on mountaintop removal. While the technical studies clearly demonstrated adverse environmental effects, particularly from valley fills, there is no suggestion made for ways to minimize these effects.

As a chemist, I know that it is MUCH easier to solve problems before they are created. As a taxpayer and power buyer, I would rather pay more money up front for coal mined responsibly than pay the huge amounts it will cost later to remediate enormous, poorly-planned and carelessly-executed valley fills.

Sincerely,
Erica Harvey

1-9

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 01:59 PM -----

"roaring20s_99@ya
hoo.com"
<roaring20s_99

To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA

cc:

Subject: Please Stop Destructive Mountaintop

Removal Mining

01/06/2004 12:18

PM

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

I strongly urge you to amend the EPA's draft environmental impact statement so as to limit the effects of harmful mountaintop removal mining. I find it unconscionable that the Bush administration plans to continue to let coal companies destroy Appalachia with mining practices that level mountaintops, wipe out forests, bury streams and destroy communities.

I cannot believe they are going ahead in spite of the administrations own studies showing the horrible impact on the environment these practices will have! They saying to the American people, we know it's bad, we just don't care'.

Sincerely,

Tracy Hasuga
30 Pitkin St
Burlington, VT 05401
roaring20s_99@yahoo.com

1-9

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 01:52 PM -----

Marlon
<marlon@twonny.rr.com> To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc:
Subject: destructive operations
12/30/2003 11:13
AM

To Whom it may concern:

I do not envy you in your position, being tugged at from all directions.

Big business have there interest and the lonely citizen has only one voice in a crowd of thousands. I ask you to consider the issues before you concerning the environment and any destruction to it.

You are charged with a huge reconcilability, but keep in mind that what you do affects all man kind, not just in the US but all over the world.

At what point are we the US going to be happy with things, the environment, just the way they are. Are we so starved that we need to destroy virgin land for the sake of a company to make profits. I think not. Look beyond your desk, beyond your self and think about all the people that you will hurt by pressure from the big business that keeps knocking on your door wanting to bend your ear.

Please do not destroy some of the last remaining treasures we have left.

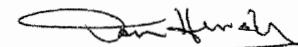
Respectfully

Marlon Henn
311 N. Collingwood Ave.
Syracuse, NY 13206

1-9

Mr. FOTERMAN

I would strongly suggest that
you look long & hard at your mountaintop
removal plan in the Appalachian mountains
what you do or don't do will affect this
regions for years & years

Airborne


REC'D JAN 26 2004

D. Hensley
8414 Faust Ave
West Hills, CA
91304

REC'D JAN 26 2004

REC'D SEP 04 2003

Robert M. Hensley, D.V.M.
1025 Creekside Lane Nicholasville, KY 40356
859 271-2920

19 August 2003

Mr. John Forren
1650 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

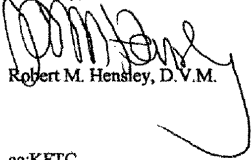
Dear Sir:

I am opposed to the concept and practice of disturbing the mountain top topography to more "efficiently" and "economically" gain access to the coal seams thereunder. This approach to mining may be good for the bottom line of the coal companies, but it most certainly is not for the adjacent environment or its inhabitants.;

Compounding this unconscionable technique is the disruption, if not destruction, of contiguous waterways with the overburden or spoil. This practice flies in the face of existing laws which attempt to preserve, if not improve, the water quality in these areas. The proposed changes would reduce the 100 foot buffer zone which attempts to protect existing streams and would exacerbate conditions of many already degraded by mining activity.

In sum, we must not continue the history of abuse of these areas simply for additional profit. It is time that the quality of life for the inhabitants and their environment be given a higher priority than the profit margins of the corporations causing this destruction.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Hensley, D.V.M.

cc:KFTC

DeliveredDate: 01/06/2004 05:07:38 PM

I lived and worked in Raleigh and Fayette County, WV, for 21 years until moving to CT in Sept., 2001, and I will never forget the beauty and feeling of the hills of that state. The mountain top removal projects had been going on for quite some time, obviously, and every time there was exposure in the press or by driving by one of the sites there was always a sick feeling in the gut. The extent to which the current Administration is intent on producing profits for their high-placed friends at the expense of the natural beauty and ecologically pristine conditions of those mountains is a travesty beyond words. Coal is useful and necessary, of course. Mine it another way. Period. We can afford it. Stop this wasteful and arrogant process. Now.

J. Michael Herr

1-9

1-9

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 01:58 PM -----

cjhice@yahoo.com
To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
01/05/2004 09:46 AM cc:
Subject: Don't fill our streams with waste materials

Dear Mr. John Forren EPA,

It is unconscionable that the Bush administration plans to continue to let coal companies destroy Appalachia with mining practices that level mountaintops, wipe out forests and bury streams in the valleys below. Mountaintop removal mining and valley fills should not be allowed and the laws and regulations that protect clean water must not be weakened. In particular, I oppose the proposal to change the stream buffer zone rule that prohibits mining activity within 100 feet of streams. This rule should be strictly enforced for valley fills and in all other cases.

Sincerely,

Caroline Hice
4353 Main St Fl 2
Philadelphia, PA 19127-1415

1-9

1-10

1/20/2004

Mr. John Forren
U.S. EPA (3EA30)
1650 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

REC'D JAN 26 2004

RE: Mountaintop removal

Dear Mr. Forren:

The Bush administration's plan to continue to let coal companies destroy Appalachia with mining practices that level mountaintops, wipe out forests and bury streams in the valleys below is unacceptable. Mountaintop removal mining and valley fills should not be allowed, and the laws and regulations that protect clean water must not be weakened. I'm disappointed and angry that the federal government ignored its own statutes when it proposed weakening, rather than strengthening, protections for people and the environment.

1-9

1-10

Sincerely,



Susan L. Hickman
Pasadena, California

S. Hickman
1184 Woodlyn Rd.
Pasadena CA 91104

REC'D JAN 2

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 11/20/2003 04:42 PM -----

Sanford
Higginbotham
To: R3
Mountaintop@EPA
<blowhole@hawaiiia
n.net>
cc:
pollution from Mountaintop Mining
Subject: ENOUGH(!)
11/09/2003 08:42
PM

November 09, 2003

John Forren, Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. EPA (SEA30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren,

I am so strongly opposed to each of the alternatives evaluated in your May 29, 2003 draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with reference to subject.

The EIS shows indisputable evidence of the devastating and irreversible environmental harm, as well as flooding, caused by mountaintop mining.

Each of the alternatives in the draft EIS ignores the findings of these studies. The draft EIS does not examine a single alternative that would reduce those impacts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sanford Higginbotham
P.O. Box 253 P.O. 223300
Princeville, HI 96722-5342
USA
blowhole@hawaiian.net

REC'D JAN 23 2004

2410 Peacock Rd.
Paris, KY 40361
1/18/04

John Forren
U.S. EPA
1650 Arch St.
Phila, PA 19103
Dear Mr. Forren,

I am writing concerning the possibility of letting go of the 25-year "buffer zone" on mountain top removal. This defies your own study results! Clearly there is some interest being served other than the citizens of the country.

The method of mining that totally ruins the mountains by scraping the tops off & throwing them into the streams & valleys serves only the companies making a profit. It hurts the local countryside & people. There is no excuse for this devastating procedure to be permitted.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Monica M. Hill

1-10

1-9

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 01:59 PM -----

"hiller@alum.mit.edu" <hiller

To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA

cc:

01/06/2004 03:00

Subject: Please Stop Destructive Mountaintop

Removal Mining
PM

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

I strongly urge you to amend the EPA's draft environmental impact statement so as to limit the effects of harmful mountaintop removal mining. I find it unconscionable that the Bush administration plans to continue to let coal companies destroy Appalachia with mining practices that level mountaintops, wipe out forests, bury streams and destroy communities.

According to the draft EIS, the environmental effects of mountaintop removal are widespread, devastating and permanent. Yet the draft EIS proposes no restrictions on this practice. If we would support the expansion of pollution-free renewables instead of ignoring the outrageous costs associated with coal, the entire world would be better off.

Sincerely,

Marty Hiller
128 Rachel Carson Way
Ithaca, NY 14850
hiller@alum.mit.edu

REC'D JAN 23 2004

1/18/04

John Forren:

I am opposed to any changes that would weaken the laws & regulations that protect clean water. I especially am worried about the proposed changes to the stream buffer zone rule that prohibits mining activity within 100 ft. of streams. Leveling mountains & burying streams is wrong and must stop. Allowing these activities ignores the science and evidence about how awful mountain top removal is and ignores Americans concerns & demands for clean water.

Sincerely,

Danita Hines
3408 Stillwater
Lexington, KY

1-10

1-9

1-5

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 01:59 PM -----

rbhiser1@aol.com
To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
01/01/2004 08:45 AM
cc:
Subject: Mountaintop Mining

After living seventeen years in the Wheeling, WV area and seeing first hand the moonscape created by surface mining in Belmont County, OH, I cannot believe we are willing to sacrifice our mountains to the same fate. I equate this mining method to cigarette smoking, you know that drawing smoke into your lungs can't be good for you yet you do it. The small number of jobs and little tax money derived from these operations cannot possibly be worth the removal for all time of the beauty and function that nature has provided us since the beginnings of time. Let us Please, for once, use some common sense and make some sensible decisions for our future generations.
Robert B. Hiser
Elkview, WV.

1-9

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/20/2004 09:08 AM -----

Paul Hodder
<phodder@catalyst
rx.com>
To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc:
Subject:
01/19/2004 06:27
PM

I received information on the impending EIS on mountaintop coal mining and am wondering if that would also affect the type of road construction going on now in the state of West Virginia. I've seen the results and the view is devastating. My understanding is that as they blow the top off of these mountains that they are also removing the coal so that they can increase the amount of acid rain falling on the streams in this part of Appalachia.

Thanks,
Paul A. Hodder
Manager, Software Development
CatalystRx
301-548-2956
phodder@catalystrx.com
ole0.bmp

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/12/2004 02:49 PM -----

Steve Hodges
<steveh@overhome.net> To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc:
Subject: mountaintop removal
01/06/2004 04:34
PM

John Forren
EPA

Dear Mr. Forren,

I oppose mountaintop removal and valley fills and any change in the rule protecting stream buffer zones. I am disappointed and angry that the federal government is ignoring its own studies by proposing to reduce protections for people and the environment. I demand a new study that looks at the alternatives to prevent new mountaintop removal and valley fill operations and to stop the existing ones within 5 years or by the expiration of the current mining permit, whichever date occurs first.

Sincerely,

Steve Hodges
594 Hoot Owl Hollow
Kyles Ford, TN 37765

12-20-03

TO Mr. John Forren:

REC'D DEC 29 2003

I urge you not to weaken environmental
protections for the devastating practice of
mountaintop mining. The Draft Environmental
Impact Statement fails to adequately address
how to dramatically reduce the environmental
harm from mountaintop mining.

Sincerely,

Sharon Hodges

HC-2 Box 108 Leakey, TX 78875

1-10

1-5

REC'D JAN 26 2004

Mr. John Forren
U.S. EPA (3EA30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Jan 17, 2004

Dear Mr. Forren,

Please consider the permanent ramifications of the proposed weakening of environmental policy regarding mountaintop strip mining for coal. It is imperative that we protect our resources despite efforts to the contrary by the current presidential administration to do otherwise. It would be very disappointing to find out in the future that the trickle down effect were even more harmful than now believed by such a practice. I do not believe the environment is worth sacrificing in any instance and much less for the strip mining of coal mined by such means as blowing the tops off mountains. It is unfortunate that the political circumstances currently dictate a weak environmental policy but it is time to stand up and take notice whether Democrat or Republican and this would be a step in the right direction.

Regards,

Andy Hodgman
1911 W. Belle Plaine Ave
Chicago, IL 60613

1-10

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95064

Dr. Karen D. Holl
Associate Professor
Environmental Studies Department
461 Natural Sciences II
(831) 439-3468

INTERNET: kholl@ucsc.edu
FAX: (831) 439-4015

REC'D JAN 26 2004

January 20, 2004

John Forren
U.S. EPA (3ES30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren,

I am writing in opposition to the Bush administration plans to continue to let coal companies destroy Appalachia with mining practices that level mountaintops, destroy forests and bury streams in the valleys below. Even the administration's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on mountaintop removal coal mining acknowledges that the environmental effects of this practice are devastating and permanent. As a scientist who has studied ecosystem recovery after mining I know the extent of the effects of large-scale coal surface mining. Even under the best of conditions recovery of these ecosystems can be slow, but when large areas of forest are cleared dispersal of seeds to colonize the areas is minimal which may impede recovery further. The streams in this region host a high diversity of fish and mussel species that are extremely sensitive to sedimentation, yet entire streams are being filled. Moreover, this type of mining negatively affects the people in the region through degrading the water quality, as well as reducing the recreational income in the region.

I am appalled that the draft EIS states that the Bush administration's preferred alternative for addressing the enormous problems caused by mountaintop removal coal mining is to weaken existing environmental protections. The role of the Environmental Protection Agency is to protect the health and resources of the people of the U.S., not to weaken the very regulations that do so. The draft EIS proposes streamlining the permitting process, allowing mountaintop removal and associated valley fills to continue at an accelerated rate. I am completely perplexed as to why the EPA would allow a practice as environmentally devastating as mountaintop mining to expand with minimal regulation.

Instead of allowing mountaintop removal to continue unabated and even increase, the Bush administration needs to consider alternatives that reduce the environmental impacts of mountaintop removal, such as restricting the size of mountaintop removal jobs and requiring thorough reclamation of those sites. The whole point of the EIS process is to acknowledge impacts and seriously consider lower impact alternatives. In this case, it seems the administration is ignoring any alternatives that do not maximize the profits of the coal companies.

I urge you to show some common sense and prevent the loosening of regulations that help to protect the people and ecosystems of this region from this devastating practice.

Sincerely,

Karen D. Holl

Karen Holl, Ph.D.

Holl, K. D. 2002. The effect of coal surface mine revegetation practices on long-term vegetation recovery. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 39: 960-970.

Holl, K. D. and J. Cairns, Jr. 1994. Vegetational community development on reclaimed coal surface mines in Virginia. *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* 121:327-337.

December 16, 2003

Mr. John Forren EPA
U.S. EPA (3EA30)
1650 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. John Forren EPA,

It is unconscionable that the Bush administration plans to continue to let coal companies destroy Appalachia with mining practices that level mountaintops, wipe out forests and bury streams in the valleys below. Mountaintop removal mining and valley fills should not be allowed and the laws and regulations that protect clean water must not be weakened. In particular, I oppose the proposal to change the stream buffer zone rule that prohibits mining activity within 100 feet of streams. This rule should be strictly enforced for valley fills and in all other cases.

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The federal government has ignored its own studies on protections for people and the environment. I, therefore, do not support any of the three alternatives contained within the Environmental Impact Statement Report. All three options will make it easier for companies to destroy streams, endangering wildlife and nearby communities. Once they are gone, they will be gone forever.

1-5

Note: I am a native Philadelphian, graduate of Central High School and the University of Pennsylvania. I would not want Tennessee's beauty destroyed any more than I would Pennsylvania's.

Sincerely,

Mark D. Homer

Mark Homer
601 S Peters Rd
Apt. 55
Knoxville, TN 37922-4358

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 01:48 PM -----

John Hopkins

<wrmfv@yahoo.com> To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA

cc:

01/06/2004 04:14 PM Subject: Comment on mountaintop removal mining EIS

DeliveredDate: 01/05/2004 12:52:43 PM

The way coal is removed in mountaintop removal mining needs to be changed from the way it has been done in the past. Personally I would like to see it stopped altogether. But I know that is not a reality today. The extractive industry, as well as all those in the coal consumption chain, need to make their companies as environmentally benign as possible. It is my understanding that in the past environmental laws have been broken by companies practicing mountaintop removal mining. This needs to stop, not by rewriting the law so that illegal practices can be made legal (every criminal would want that), but by enforcement and prosecution.

1-9

Mountaintop removal is not only extremely environmentally degrading but it also has serious consequences for the communities around the mine. This societal dimension also needs addressing. I believe that even if the coal extractive companies were to be environmentally and socially conscience coal would still be very competitive with other energy sources. Thank you, John Honeck 315
W Newhall #7, Waukesha WI 53186.

I oppose loosening rules on mountaintop removal mining.

11-10

Of all forms of resource extraction, large scale surface mining has one of the longest lasting and most radical impacts on the land. Timber, gas, or petroleum extraction can have severe impacts, especially if not managed properly for environmental considerations, but most of the impact of these activities will fade after a few hundred years. With MTR mining, the alteration of the natural landforms, rocks, and streams of the Appalachians will persist on a geologic timescale, thousands or tens of thousands of years. We aren't using these resources to produce durable goods such as steel--most of it will be burned for a one shot production of energy. And with regard to development of industry, flood-proof housing, etc. there is enough land surface-mined already to allow for hundreds of years of building.

Astronomers have given us magnificent photos of deep space, and physicists concepts of the infinitesimal. These provide us with glimpses of "the mind of God" (however one conceives of the creative force behind the universe). These realms remain distant visions to us as humans. But a human can walk across a wild mountain, one can touch it and smell it. The human world is a wondrous--and horrific--part of nature too, but the natural world is uniquely grounding for mental and spiritual health because it bypasses the immensely tangled layers of human ideas, goals, and conceits.

1-9

The earth doesn't care. The losers will be our children, our descendants. For a party of a couple-of-hundred years of cheap energy, West Virginia children of centuries to come will inherit not a landscape that gives us a peek at the "mind of God" but instead a landscape that is pockmarked with landfills and slumping sandtrap-like features, a landscape of human designs and motives.

Now I'm as impure as the next guy, I'm addicted like everyone else to this cheap energy. And of course, most of the land that isn't uninhabitable in the world is dedicated to human purposes. But it's a question of degree. Where are we going to stop? How can we start turning in a different direction so that we don't have to continue shredding wild lands to maintain our civilization? The tools of late industrial civilization give us the ability to destroy huge areas in record time.

But they also give us alternatives, too-little discussed and valued, to move in different directions--without going back to the stone age.

John H Hopkins
e-mail, wrmfv@yahoo.com

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/23/2004 09:38 AM -----

"Patricia R.
Hopkins" To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
<buffalowoman@lam cc:
ere.net> Subject: Please Limit the Destruction Caused
By Mountaintop Removal Mining | 1-9

01/12/2004 06:07
PM

Patricia R. Hopkins
75 Raymond Street
Biddeford, ME 04005

January 12, 2004

John Forren
US EPA (3EA30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Forren:

75 Raymond Street

Cordially,

Patricia R. Hopkins

2843 Dover Road Northwest
Atlanta, Georgia 30327

PIERRE HOWARD
REC'D JAN 09 2004

Jan 5, 2004

Dear Mr. Forren,

I am a taxpayer and U.S. citizen aged 61 who served almost 30 years in Georgia in elected office. I am still a believer in the system, and I am writing you to plead for your help.

The proposal to denude over 380,000 acres of mature hardwood forest over the next ten years in order to allow the coal industry to go forward with their mountain-top removal will be extremely harmful to many species of birds including the (over)

Cerulean Warblers whose population is in steep decline. Why must the industry always win? Why can't the EPA place the proper value on preserving mature forest bird species? I just can't tell you how strongly I oppose the industry proposal. It is just dead wrong - to destroy the mountains put there by God Almighty.

Sincerely,
Pierre Howard

8-1-2

1-9

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/23/2004 09:42 AM -----

"renee@tcwn.org"
<renee@tcwn.org> To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc:
01/21/2004 08:52 AM Subject: Support clean water!

Mr. John Forren
U.S. EPA (3EA30)

Dear Mr. Forren,

Please reduce the harmful effects of mountaintop removal coal mining to protect natural resources and communities and do not weaken environmental protections that apply to the companies that are conducting mountaintop removal.

1-10

The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on mountaintop removal should be rewritten to recommend limits on the size of valley fills that bury streams and imperil wildlife.

1-7

The draft Environmental Impact Statement should not do away with a surface mining rule that makes it illegal for mining activities to disturb areas within 100 feet of streams.

1-10

Sincerely,
Renee Hoyos
327 E. Quincy Ave
Knoxville, TN 37917

Patrick Huber
721 E. 11th St.
Davis, CA 95616

Dear EPA:

I am writing in regards to the mining technique of mountaintop removal, especially practiced in the Appalachian region. The waterways of this part of the country are some of the biologically richest in the world. They deserve the utmost care in our management of them. Wholesale dumping of mountains into these streams does not fit anywhere near this category.

As such, every alternative described in this current EIS falls woefully short, none are acceptable. Every alternative acknowledges the devastation caused by this technique, yet none lays out a means of dealing with it. In fact, the "preferred alternative" (evidently "preferred" by coal companies) threatens to further reduce the already paltry regulations concerning this degradation. This includes the elimination of the stream buffer rule and valley fills, and the transfer of Clean Water Act regulatory powers to agencies that have not had that role in the past and are not meant to deal with this issue. Any new rule concerning mountaintop removal should be focused on strengthening environmental regulations (hence the name of your agency), not the facilitation of further ecological damage.

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Please do not continue forward with the current EIS. The incredible aquatic ecosystems of the Appalachians call for a new approach to this issue.

Sincerely,



Patrick Huber

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 11/20/2003 04:48 PM -----

Barbara
Hutchison-Smith
Mountaintop@EPA
<bhsongbird@citynet.net>
help in saving our mountains.
11/10/2003 11:02
AM

To: R3
cc:
Subject: My plea for

November 10, 2003

John Forren, Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. EPA (35A30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren,

I am a lifelong resident of the state of West Virginia, the mountain state. We are a people who feel protected by our mountains and the beauty they display. There are many people in this state whose livelihood is derived from tourism. If our mountains are allowed to be devastated by the practice of mountaintop removal who will want to come to our beautiful state? We simply cannot stand by and watch silently while we are made the energy sacrifice zone for America. This is an obscene practice and must be curtailed completely. I am opposed to any changes that would weaken the laws and regulations that protect our rivers and streams from the effects of mountaintop mining and valley fills. As a result, I am opposed to each of the alternatives evaluated in your May 23, 2003 draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Your draft EIS contains indisputable evidence of the devastating and irreversible environmental harm caused by mountaintop mining. Other agency studies also show that mountaintop mining contributes to flooding disasters in mountain

communities. Unfortunately, each of the alternatives in the draft EIS ignores the findings of these studies and the very purpose of the EIS- to find ways to minimize, to the maximum extent practical, the environmental consequences of mountaintop mining. The draft EIS does not examine a single alternative that would reduce those impacts.

Worse, your "preferred alternative" would clearly increase the damage from mountaintop mining by eliminating the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act's buffer zone rule that prohibits mining activities that disturb any area within 100 feet of larger streams, eliminating the current limit on using nationwide permits to approve valley fills in West Virginia that are larger than 250 acres, and giving the Office of Surface Mining a significant new role in Clean Water Act permitting for mountaintop mining (a role it does not have under current law).

Our environmental laws require, and the citizens of the region deserve, a full evaluation of ways to reduce the unacceptable impacts of mountaintop mining. I urge you to abandon your "preferred alternative" and to reevaluate a full range of options that will minimize the enormous environmental and economic damage caused by mountaintop mining and valley fills.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Hutchinson-Smith
211 Dwyer Ln
Lewisburg, WV 24901-1205
USA
bhsongbird@citynet.net

11-7-2

1-10

1-5

4-2

4-2

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/07/2004 03:42 PM -----

Mining "momcatsmac@aol.com" <momcatsmac@
cc: 01/06/2004 12:39 PM
Subject: Please Stop Destructive Mountaintop Removal

Carole L. Hyre
115 Wilton Avenue
Elkins, WV 26241-3260
304-636-5175
caroleh@directway.com

REC'D DEC 18 2003

John Forren, US EPA (3ES30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

STOP mountaintop removal! It destroys trees, displaces wildlife, and the removed debris fills streams and pollutes valleys, making uninhabitable homes of people who live there.

Have the courage to stand up for right! Mountaintop removal is wrong on every level that matters to our environment and it disregards and burdens a significant part of our population.

Sincerely,

Martha Hutson
9422 Fern Hollow Way
Montgomery Village, MD 20886
momcatsmac@aol.com

1-9

December 11, 2003

Dear Mr. Forren:

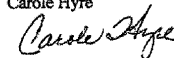
I am opposed to mountaintop removal mining and the Bush Administration's recommendation that would expand its practice. This destructive mining practice destroys biologically rich forests, buries streams and creeks, devastates the quality of life in mountain communities and causes frequent and severe flooding.

This is no time to erase restrictions on mountaintop removal permits and ignore existing environmental protections. I urge the Environmental Protection Agency to reject President Bush's proposed rule changes and to protect Appalachia's environment, heritage, and communities by ending mountain top removal.

I am an avid hiker, and I hope that we can continue to walk the land and enjoy our beautiful state. Please, help keep our mountain heritage pristine.

Thank you.

Carole Hyre



1-9

1-10

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/07/2004 03:42 PM -----

"bobiles@juno.com
" <bobiles To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc:
01/06/2004 05:33 Subject: Please Stop Destructive Mountaintop
Removal Mining
PM

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

I strongly urge you to amend the EPA's draft environmental impact statement so as to limit the effects of harmful mountaintop removal mining.

What is proposed is an absolute rape of nature with no control over the damage, no consideration for the wildlife or the environment.

There are other energy alternatives - this abomination is completely unnecessary.

Sincerely,

Robert Iles
1327 Hernandes Drive
Orlando, FL 32808
bobiles@juno.com

1-9

AUG 29 2003

REC'D

August 28, 2003

Mr. John Forren
US EPA (3ES30)
1850 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA. 19103

Mr. Forren:

Please accept this letter as my comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on mountaintop removal for coal mining.

This draft EIS proposes no restrictions on mountaintop removal. That's ridiculous. The proposed alternative should be to stop mountaintop removal immediately.

Few things are as destructive as mountaintop removal. How can one strip a mountaintop and throw the debris in a streambed and not be in violation of the Clean Water Act? Mountaintop removal is a crime against nature. It is disgusting and indefensible.

I live in Utah but I love the eastern mountains. I care deeply about what happens in West Virginia and the entire Appalachian range.

The EPA should be making every effort to stop mountaintop removal, not to make it easier to get permits for it.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Jablonski

Michael A. Jablonski
125 East 500 South
River Heights, Utah

1-8

1-9

August 4, 2003

REC'D AUG 11 2003

To whom it may concern:

I feel the need to express my opinion regarding the draft EIS. I have worked with the mining industry for many years and feel they are doing a good job in reclaiming the land they mine. This was not the case years ago, but improvements have been made and today the land is much more useful after it is mined. A majority of the water pollution comes from garbage being dumped in our streams. Our wildlife population is on the increase. | 19-3-2

Without the coal mining industry, people in Eastern Kentucky would be devastated. We are among the poorest counties in the nation, and without the coal industry I do not see how a lot of our families that rely on the coal industry to provide for them would survive. | 5-5-2
| 7-2-2

I feel the regulations are strict enough and that they are being properly enforced. I do not believe that a change in the regulations is necessary at this time. | 11-1-2
| 1-12

Thank you,

Donnie Jackson
260 Belles Fork Rd.
Manchester, KY 40962

Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/12/2004 02:45 PM -----

Gordon James
<gtjames1940@yahoo.com> To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc:
Subject: Strengthen draft EIS on mountaintop removal coal mining
12/30/2003 07:42 PM

December 30, 2003

Mr. John Forren
Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (3EA30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren,

Please change the EPA's draft environmental impact statement on mountaintop removal mining. This is a horrible destruction of Appalachian ecosystems and beautiful natural areas. | 1-9

Sincerely,

Gordon James
3036 S. Cherry Way
Denver, CO 80222
USA

My name is Roberta James. I have worked for Kentucky Coal Association for over thirty years. I have seen many changes through the years, especially in the areas of reclamation. The industry has turned old mine sites into wild life habitats, airports, schools, hospitals, golf courses, parks, housing, etc. It has given the mountainous areas of eastern Kentucky much needed flat land to improve their economies and has brought more jobs to the area.

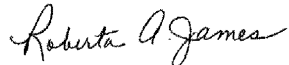
The coal industry is a heavily regulated industry. The coal companies are required by law to reclaim the land once mining is done. It is reclaimed to equal or better than status then before mining began. Kentucky has had many years of successful reclamation. When new trees, grass, etc are planted, it takes nature some time for the trees to grow and vegetation to produce to what it was before mining. We all know that heavy rains, forest fires, and acts of God can destroy wildlife and nature.... not just coal mining as some people would have you believe. Road construction gives us flatter and wider roads to travel on. While this construction is going on the area looks bad. But once it is completed, we travel the roads and enjoy the quicker access it gives us with the improvements that are made.

Building construction tears up the land until the school, airport, hospital, golf course and/or parks are completed and replanted. People in these areas use the facilities, sometimes not fully realizing or remembering how it was before mining and reclamation. These new facilities bring employment and new life to the areas.

The home I bought a few years ago is heated by natural gas (not my choice). All my appliances (air conditioner, washer, dryer, water heater, stove, etc.) are all electric. My electric bill is cheaper than my gas bill. If we went to an alternative source for electric I'm sure my electric bill would rise. Coal keeps the costs down. It has been around for centuries and will continue to be there. It is a product of nature and has many uses other than fuel. Some of the products of coal are: paint pigments, perfumes, insecticide, fertilizers, batteries, paving, baking soda..... to name a few.

The industry has employed many people and families for decades and will continue to do so. It has given many families a decent home and life. Money is returned to the counties through coal severance tax. This also helps the area grow.

Doing away with the coal industry, or a part of it, will have a devastating effect on the economy. It will do more harm in the long run than good. I support the industry and will continue to do so. It has given me a good job in which to raise my family and provide for them.



Roberta A. James
720 Dardanelles Dr.
Lexington, KY 40503

August 20, 2003

REC'D AUG 26 2003

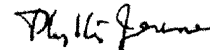
John Forren
U.S.EPA (3ES30)
1650 Arch St
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren:

I am writing to urge you not to do away with the "buffer zone" rule that protects streams from the impact of mountaintop removal. The government should be strengthening, not weakening, protections for people and the environment.

There is plenty of evidence for the position that mountaintop removal is detrimental to human life, water and aquatic life. Do you and President Bush care more about the coal companies' profits than about this country and its citizens?

Sincerely,



Phyllis Jenness
360 Garden Rd.
Lexington, KY 40502

cc: President Bush
Senator Mitch McConnell
Senator Jim Bunning
Representative Ernie Fletcher

19-3-2

1-10

1-9

11-1-2

11-4-2

112 Newcrest Lane
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
23 December 2003

REC'D DEC 29 2003

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA

Dear Mr. Forren:

I am an American citizen writing to comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement that the E.P.A. recently issued concerning mountaintop removal mining.

I was most distressed to see that all of the alternatives offered in the DEIS will do away with regulation's prohibition mining within 100 feet of streams. The attendant burial of the headwaters of streams and rivers cannot help but have a devastating effect on water quality.

As one who has a Ph.D. in Forest Soil Science and a master's degree in Watershed management, I find all of the EPA's proposed alternatives totally unacceptable. But it does not take a soil scientist who has worked in the area of mine reclamation to realize the devastating effect of this type of activity. Historical records abound which demonstrate the impact on stream water quality - both from sediment, acid mine drainage, altered quantities and timing of runoff, etc. of such drastic approaches to mining.

In addition, impacts on wildlife habitat could

also be devastating. Much of the land in the eastern U.S. that is amenable to mountaintop mining removal is prime habitat for a number of threatened species, such as the Cerulean Warbler.

The motivation for EPA's approach to altering mining practices that have been appropriately regulated for decades - at this time - is totally unclear. Are we so desperate for coal that we are willing to destroy nature in this manner to get it? Or are there powerful interests pressuring the government to have their own way?

If the Environmental Protection Agency continues on such a path, it will need to change its name.

Sincerely,

John Devereux Jodine, Jr.

8-1-2

1-5

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 11/20/2003 02:34 PM -----

emily johnson
<dbricker@marin.k
Mountaintop@EPA
12.ca.us>
from Mountaintop Mining
11/07/2003 09:12
PM
To: R3
cc:
Subject: Save Streams

November 07, 2003

John Forren, Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. EPA (SEA30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren,

I am opposed to any changes that would weaken the laws and regulations that protect our rivers and streams from the effects of mountaintop mining and valley fills. As a result, I am opposed to each of the alternatives evaluated in your May 29, 2003 draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

emily johnson
135 Mount Whitney Ct
San Rafael, CA 94903-1034
USA
dbricker@marin.k12.ca.us

Jane Johnson
82 Antioch Rd
Crab Orchard, TN 37723

REC'D JAN 23 2004

JULY 22, 2003

John Forren
US EPA
1650 Arch St
Philadelphia, PA 19103

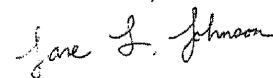
Twenty-two people have reported that their houses have been badly shaken up by blasting from the Cumberland Coal Company mine on Smith Mountain in Cumberland County, Tennessee.

Of these twenty-two people, twelve have reported damage to their houses and property.

It is NOT legal to damage houses and property with blasting from a mine: the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) requires operators to design a blasting plan which will prevent injuries to persons and property outside the Permit Area, legal number 30CFR817.67.

It is extremely important that the above law, 30CFR817.67, be enforced.

Sincerely,



Jane L. Johnson

16-1-1

John Johnson
 Date: 1/04/2004
 City: Chattanooga State: TN Zip: 37401

Will facilitate Destruction: The idea that such a practice as mountain top removal is even allowed, let alone requires a scientific study, shows just how insane the US Government and its corporate sponsors have become. It is patently obvious that mountain top removal is genocide and ecocide of the highest order. Simply, it destroys life. Why do you need to do a study to figure that out? As mountain top a removal destroys all life that it comes near, both human and non-human, it should be ILLEGAL and abolished. If you profit blinded fools can not see the destruction caused by mountain top removal and the subsequent necessity of banning the practice, than you are no longer worthy of our respect or your job. In short, ABOLISH, OUTLAW, BAN or otherwise make illegal mountain top removal and ALL other variations of destructive strip mining or RESIGN. There is no need to belabor the finer points of your draft EIS here. Mountain top removal destroys the living mountain, forest and aquatic ecosystems that make life possible and desirable in Southern and Central Appalachia.

For that reason alone it should be abolished. Make it illegal or the outraged populace will make your ineffectual bureaucracy obsolete. For the mountains, John Johnson of, but not necessarily for, Katuah Earth First, P.O. Box 281 Chattanooga, TN 37401 ps. please put my US postal address (above) on all future NEPA scoping and comment lists relating g to mountain top removal in central and southern appalachia. pps. please respond so that I know you received these comments.

1-9

August 1, 2003

REC'D DEC 7 4 2003

My home is in the heart of your study area and in the belly of the beast—the beast is the greedy, irresponsible coal barons and the corrupt regulatory agencies and politicians that serve as the minions of this beast.

This draft EIS is a blueprint for continued assault upon the people of Appalachia, a declaration of war upon our children, their children and GOD'S creation. Enough, **STOP Mountaintop Removal, NOW!!!!** *How Many Tons of explosives used in Appalachia a day?*

1-9

This EIS encourages the coal industry to continue to use—to rape and take—Appalachia and her people—as a national sacrifice zone.

This EIS did NOT study the cumulative effects of environmental, community, human, cultural; health and socio-economic impacts of post, present and future Valley fill mining. How did you study the environmental justice impacts in this draft? You did not study the cultural, community, people and property being destroyed by this mining method, you dismissed it.

10-7-2

I demand a revised EIS that includes cumulative impacts of cultural, social, emotional, and spiritual and health problems of communities affected by Mountaintop Removal.

A partial cultural study already exists, this study by Dr. Mary Hufford is available on the Library of Congress website and Dr. Hufford—Dr. of Ethnography can be reached at the University of Penn. Our mountain culture has been her long before the white settlers came and before Commercial coal mining began. Our culture will be here long after the coal is gone!

9-4-2

It is believed that many people in Mountaintop Removal Effected communities suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder--from blasting and flooding. How dare you dismiss the suffering of low income and the invisible minority people of central Appalachia!! How dare you dismiss and defy the Executive Order dealing with environmental justice, the low income and minority people.

10-7-2

Your own study says that this area is well above the average in poverty and unemployment. Where is the study on socio-economic problems of the area? Why are the people in the coal rich counties the poorest? What are the **ACTUAL** costs to the communities and people that suffer the effects of Mountaintop Removal? This mining effects the very poor, the powerless and oppressed people. Economic Development of these artificial sites? Only 6% of these destroyed mountains are ever given any economic development for the affected communities. Where is the study on this?—I want to see the figures and a study on how much “prosperity” goes back to Buglar Hollow or Bob White or Montcoal, or any small mining community.

10-2-2

In the last 6 months, 2 schools in the Coal River Valley, Both surrounded by many Massey mining permits, was closed. Sending our children on very, very long bus rides. One was at Montcoal—Marsh Fork High School—where is the support---where's the money? The Raleigh County Board of Educations said it does NOT receive a red cent from coal tax for education---coal says it gives---who is lying? **I want to see a report on that.**

The scientific evidence of this study shows that Mountaintop Removal is environmentally insane, but the recommendations by the administration is to make it easier for the greedy coal companies to destroy everything, which leads me to believe that

even worse scientific evidence was omitted from this study. Even so, your report makes an airtight case against your conclusions. Your report and your conclusions strongly contradict. Did a complete idiot write the conclusions?

AS a fellow Christian I challenge President Bush to come to the coalfield hollows in central Appalachia and talk with the blasted, flooded, poor and the oppressed people impacted by Mountaintop Removal. I ask President Bush to investigate his agencies, No true Christian would allow these evil abuses to continue. I am sure once the President discovers these crimes against the citizens of Appalachia, he will stop Mountaintop Removal. NO true GOD-fearing man would allow these crimes to continue.

People should NOT have to make a choice between a job now and destroying their children's future, making their neighbors suffer and selling their eternal souls in the bargain.

Revelation 11:18

Thy wrath is come, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets and to the saints and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the Earth.

HOW VERY, VERY ARROGANT OF MAN TO THINK HE CAN DESTROY GOD'S CREATION.

Lorelei Seawell Rock Creek, WV 25174
Lamela D. Hew Arnett, WV
Dwight Anderson Rock Creek, WV 25174
Raven Regalado Rock Creek, WV 25174
Andrew Jones Rock Creek, WV. 25174

Mr. John Forren
U.S. EPA
1650 Arch St.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
19103

REC'D JAN 5 2004

Dear Mr. Forren:

Please consider the disastrous effects of mountaintop coal removal practices as you establish environmental policies and enforce laws and regulations.

Many people in the United States love the Appalachian Mountains, especially the mountains of West Virginia. It is shocking to see the devastation caused by valley fills, the destruction of mountains that can never be replaced for any generation, and the wholesale ignorance displayed by strip mining.

Environmental policy should protect the environment, not allowing its destruction for any reason. Our government should not ignore the wishes of the people to preserve the mountains. Mountaintop removal is short-sighted and regulations should not favor business over our natural heritage. Poor people are being exploited as is the land.

Please use the power of your position to protect the mountains and the people who live there who are being flooded out and run out by noise and devastation from the coal companies' destructive practices.

Sincerely,

Deborah Jones
Deborah Jones
8415 Yolanda Road
Richmond, VA 23229

January 1, 2004

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/07/2004 03:42 PM -----

"lwmwj@patmedia.net"

<lwmwj

To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA

cc:

01/06/2004 01:24

Subject: Please Stop Destructive Mountaintop Removal

Mining

PM

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

I strongly urge you to amend the EPA's draft environmental impact statement so as to limit the effects of harmful mountaintop removal mining. I find it unconscionable that the Bush administration plans to continue to let coal companies destroy Appalachia with mining practices that level mountaintops, wipe out forests, bury streams and destroy communities.

The Bush administration must consider alternatives.

Sincerely,

Lora Jones
7 Springhill Road
Annandale, NJ 08801
lwmwj@patmedia.net

REC'D JAN 02 2004

Bulow, Ky
Dec. 27. 03

Dear Mr. Farnham,

I have some comments on mountaintop removal. In 1998 as part of a land suit settlement, the federal government agreed to create an environmental impact statement about mountaintop removal mining and valley fills. The purpose of the report.

To evaluate options for improving Agency Programs under the Clean Water Act (CWA), Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) that will contribute to reducing the adverse environmental impacts of mountaintop removal operations and excess spoil valley fills in Appalachia.

This report was supposed to be released in late 2000. The Bush Administration has refused to release it for several years because it did not like the results of the Government's own studies. The recommendations contained in the EIS report are a sham and a shame. They will not protect our water, our streams and forests.

It makes me angry for the way they

REC'D JAN 02 2004

get away with doing what they want to us, destroying our land, water, that is why I'm against mountaintop removal, mining, and valley fills.
I opposed any changes that would weaken the laws and regulations that protect clean water.
I oppose the proposal to change the stream buffer zone rule that prohibits mining activity within 100 feet of streams.
I welcome the scientific studies that documents the widespread and irreversible damage the coal industry is doing to our state and region.
I do not support Alternatives #1, 2 and 3 contained within the EIS report. None of the options will protect our water, communities we will not have a better future for Kentucky or region. They only want to make it easier for the coal industry to get permits to continue to destroy our land, water, and people. I think the Bush administration is cheering the coal industry on to destroy Kentucky.

Sincerely
Mary Lou Jones
20 Millsboro Ave
Bulow, Ky 41722

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/07/2004 03:32 PM -----

deforest@austin.r
t.com

To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA

cc:

01/03/2004 11:02

Subject: Comments on Draft programmatic

Environmental Impact Statement on mountaintop

PM

removal coal mining

Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Impact Statement,

I'm writing in regards to Bush administration plans to continue to let coal companies destroy Appalachia with mining practices that level mountaintops, wipe out forests and bury streams in the valleys below.

1-9

Are you freaking NUTS???

Sincerely,

Tim Jones
313 Lone Oak Drive
Austin, Texas 78704



Mr. Richard E. Jorgensen
559 Valencia St. Ste. 46
San Francisco, CA 94110

Mr. John Porren
US EPA (JEA30)
1650 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Sir:

For over a century, since the founding of the world's first national park, the United States has been a leader in environmental protection.

That is, obviously, the very mission of your agency.

Thus, I find it horrific that our country and your agency should permit the drastic degradation of the Appalachian ecosystem by mountaintop mining.

Please do everything in your power to place this practice which has destroyed seven hundred miles of streams under the strictest regulation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Jorgensen
Richard E. Jorgensen, MPA

31 December 2003

REC'D JAN 07 2004

1-9

REC'D DEC 31 2003

December 28, 2003

From: Tom Joy
1156 Hightop Road, Lot 189
Blacksburg, VA 24060

To: John Forren
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (3EA30)
1650 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Subject: Comments on draft Mountaintop Removal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Dear Mr. Forren:

I am opposed to mountaintop removal and valley fills. I believe that this immoral and illegal method of mining should be halted immediately and emphasis placed on developing the technology to mine thin seams of coal from underground. Alternatively, a method should be found to compensate coal companies for not mining coal that can currently only be removed by mountaintop removal.

My specific comments on the EIS follow:

1. The EIS appears to be an attempt at misdirection. It largely bypasses the primary environmental impact of the mining itself and addresses only the secondary environmental impact to contiguous areas that occurs after the mining is over.
2. The EIS is based on the implicit premise that all of the coal that is present must be removed. In locations where underground mining is not an option, this generally means mountaintop removal mining. However, to use mountaintop removal mining requires accepting an enormous and irrevocable environmental impact - the total eradication of the existing topography, hydrology, and ecology in the areas to be mined and filled. The only justifications provided for this wholesale environmental destruction are the improved efficiency and lower cost of coal removal. Only the morally bankrupt could regard these justifications as sufficient.
3. In the EIS, mitigation is proposed as a meaningful response to the environmental effects of mountaintop removal mining. In reality, the concept of mitigation fails completely to address the extremes of habitat destruction that characterize mountaintop removal mining. There is no way to mitigate the total loss of a mountain, valley or headwater stream, let alone the systematic eradication of thousands of them throughout the Appalachian region. These entities are unique and irreplaceable, and the esthetic, cultural, environmental, and economic consequences of their destruction can never be undone. Their loss will be a sad fact of life and a heavy burden to be borne by all future generations.
4. The EIS focuses primarily on stream loss and downstream hydrologic and ecologic consequences of valley fills. It fails to consider what consequences might result from the absence of the mountain that supplied the fill. What are the possible alterations in local climatic conditions, e.g., wind patterns, rainfall patterns, rainfall amounts and temperatures that might occur if one or several existing mountains were to be removed?
5. The end result of the coal-mining methods that are addressed by the EIS, particularly mountaintop removal mining, must be to alter the topography of an appreciable extent of the Appalachian Valley and Ridge Province. The EIS does not consider how the eventual

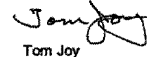
removal of 30 to 40 percent of the mountains might alter regional climatic conditions and how that might affect the regional ecology.

6. The EIS should address the possibility that valley fills may be used to conceal the unpermitted dumping of non-hazardous and hazardous wastes in addition to mine spoil. Eyewitnesses have observed large numbers of used tires being disposed of in valley fills, and it is widely believed by area residents that frequent clandestine dumping of hazardous wastes in valley fills also occurs.
7. The EIS should consider as an alternative the use of underground mines alone to remove coal. All the prized Appalachian regional attributes of esthetics, ecology, and culture depend on the continued physical presence of the Appalachian Mountains themselves. Intact, the Appalachians represent an inexhaustible source of economic and lifestyle benefits to residents and visitors. By using only underground mines, original contour, hydrology, and ecology would be largely preserved. Thus, the most extreme negative impacts associated with mountaintop removal mining would be eliminated.

If it is the case, as the EIS states, that coal seams less than 28 inches in thickness cannot be mined economically from underground, coal companies could receive a tax credit or other compensation for "banking" the coal in such areas. This would provide time for the development of technology that would allow that coal to be mined economically from underground. If the coal companies were compensated using money derived from tourism, they would have an incentive to conduct their mining and coal processing operations in an environmentally responsible manner.

Please feel free to contact me regarding any of these comments.

Sincerely,



Tom Joy

Phone: (540) 951-2414

9-2-2

1-9

5-7-3

5-6-2

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/07/2004 03:32 PM -----

"nspector12@aol.com" <nspector12@
om> cc: 01/06/2004 03:45 PM
Removal Mining
Subject: Please Stop Destructive Mountaintop

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

I strongly urge you to amend the EPA's draft environmental impact statement so as to limit the effects of harmful mountaintop removal mining. I find it unconscionable that the Bush administration plans to continue to let coal companies destroy Appalachia with mining practices that level mountaintops, wipe out forests, bury streams and destroy communities.

According to the draft EIS, the environmental effects of mountaintop removal are widespread, devastating and permanent.

I urge you to immediately amend the draft EIS accordingly.

Sincerely,

Edward Kadane
7134 Tokalon
Dallas, TX 75214
nspector12@aol.com

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/07/2004 03:32 PM -----

Ray Kamstra
<rkamstra@masspirg.org> To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc: Subject: No to Mountain Top Removal!
01/06/2004 12:43 PM
Please respond to
rkamstra

John Forren,

I oppose mountaintop removal and valley fills and any change in the buffer zone rule. I'm disappointed and angry that the federal government ignored its own studies when it proposed weakening, rather than strengthening, protections for people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Ray Kamstra
Malden, MA

1-5

1-9

1-10

Mr. John Forren
U.S. EPA
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

REC'D JAN 12 2004

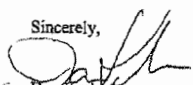
RE: Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Mountaintop
Removal Mining and Valley Fills.

Dear Mr. Forren,

Never in all my years of watching the coal industry despoil our lands, waters and communities have I seen a study about this rogue industry so biased and so cynical as to defy belief. Even to an idiot the destructive impact of mountaintop removal is eye-popping and hard to believe.

Finish your study with a little honesty. Recommend what is right, not what is politically right. We need help; please give us some, in light of the slant and conclusions geared to the coal industry in this first draft.

Sincerely,


Dan Kash
12629 Kelly Dr.
Ashland, KY 41102

1-9

Dear Mr. Forren

REC'D JAN 26 2004

Mining practices that level mountaintops & bury streams should not be allowed, and the laws and regulations that protect our waters should not be weakened. The federal government has proposed weakening environmental laws, rather than strengthening protections for people and the environment. Mountaintop removal is responsible for significant devastation to the Appalachian region.

1-10

1-9

Sincerely
Barry Katzen

B. Katzen
9543 Rutnick Ave
Chatsworth, CA 91311

REC'D

DeliveredDate: 01/06/2004 04:10:46 PM

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

Dear Mr. Forren:

The current practice of mountain top removal for easier access to coal is a foolhardy one that both directly and indirectly endangers people and the environment they live in. Any brief research into the topic would show that only detrimental consequences result from this popular practice; it strips the land of essential nutrients, robs countless of species of their homes, and pollutes waterways. The litany of its harmful effects is virtually endless. This is not even taking into consideration the deleterious effects of fossil fuel consumption. Even land reclamation projects are not sufficient in remedying the environments that were entirely ravaged; the original array of species cannot generally function in the vastly changed ecosystem, and only generalist species migrate into the reclaimed region. It is a sign of environmental degradation when an abundance of generalist - not specialist - species inhabit an area because that signifies that it cannot support the higher qualities of the specialists. The damage done to the environment is irreparable, and this alone should be enough to prove that the practice's disadvantages far outweigh its few advantages. As a whole, people often forget that we depend upon the land for resources still, and this generation is not the last. But if we continue to treat the land with such disrespect, it will not last far into the future. John Muir said, "How glorious a greeting the sun gives the mountains!", but at this rate, there may one day be no mountains on which the sun can light its happy beams. Moreover, the harmful pollutants that are produced by both mining and the burning of fossil fuels are causing global warming, as well as respiratory diseases and other poor living conditions. Ansel Adams once succinctly stated, "It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment." However, this need not be the case. The government has in its power to protect - nourish, celebrate - the environment. I strongly implore you to consider what you're doing to the environment - as well as to your posterity and yourself. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Erin Renee Kazee

Erin Kazee
Rt. 1 Box 547
Flatwoods, KY 41139
erinkazee@yahoo.com

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/30/2004 11:21 AM -----

"rakmet@msn.com"
<rakmet To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc:
01/14/2004 06:40 Subject: Support clean water!
PM

Mr. John Forren
U.S. EPA (3EA30)

Dear Mr. Forren,

Please reduce the harmful effects of mountaintop removal coal mining to protect natural resources and communities and do not weaken environmental protections that apply to the companies that are conducting mountaintop removal. | 1-10

The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on mountaintop removal should be rewritten to recommend limits on the size of valley fills that bury streams and imperil wildlife. | 1-7

The draft Environmental Impact Statement should not do away with a surface mining rule that makes it illegal for mining activities to disturb areas within 100 feet of streams. | 1-6

Sincerely,

Robert Keilbach
134-28 60 Ave
Flushing, NY 11355

1-9

REC'D AUG 29 2003

910 Sunset Road
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103
August 25, 2003

Mr. John Forren, U.S. EPA (3ES30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pa 19103

Dear Sir,

I am writing to comment on the unfortunate, vague and inadequate recommendations made for action in response to EIS report regarding mountaintop removal mining and valley fills.

I am a graduate of Berea College and my mother was a Kentuckian. She would not only be shocked and dismayed (as I am also) at the wreckage of her beautiful state but would want to protest the cavalier way in which the current administration is "responding" to an EIS report documenting the extreme damage occurring at the hands of the coal companies in Kentucky.

Your report specifies weak and vague alternatives to correct the continuing irreversible damage being done to mountain streams and terrain. Why? Evidence in the report clearly indicated a need for a more specific and preventive role for our government.

It all boils down to who lives and loves Kentucky most:

Is it the coal companies with their blind need for profits in a state that can do without this kind of destructive coal mining?

Is it President Bush who has already a long track record of assaults against the environment to profit big busienss?

Is it lawmakers in Frankfort, whose knees are too weak to behave like they should in opposing the continual destruction of their state for political gain?

You answer.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Corsi Kelley
Mary Corsi Kelley

1-5

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 11:39 AM -----

Cindy Kendrick
<cindykendrick@co To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
mcast.net> cc:
Subject: Comments on Mountaintop Removal EIS
01/01/2004 01:23
PM

Cindy Kendrick
7317 Dunsten Drive
Knoxville, TN 37931-1804
phone: 865-386-6382

January 1, 2004

Mr. John Forren
U.S. EPA (3EA30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren:

Comments on Mountaintop Removal

While pondering the short-sightedness of the EIS on Mountaintop Removal, I am reminded of the words of Rachel Carson, in a letter to the editor of the Washington Post in 1963...

... the way is being cleared for a raid upon our natural resources that is without parallel within the present century.

The real wealth of the Nation lies in the resources of the earth -- soil, water, forests, minerals, and wildlife. To utilize them for present needs while insuring their preservation for future generations requires a delicately balanced and continuing program, based on the most extensive research. Their administration is not properly, and cannot be, a matter of politics.

By long tradition, the agencies responsible for these resources have been directed by men of professional stature and experience, who have understood, respected, and been guided by the findings of

their scientists....

For many years public-spirited citizens throughout the country have been working for the conservation of the natural resources, realizing their vital importance to the Nation. Apparently their hard-won progress is to be wiped out, as a politically minded Administration returns us to the dark ages of unrestrained exploitation and destruction.

It is one of the ironies of our times that, while concentrating on the defense of our country against enemies from without, we should be so heedless of those who would destroy it from within.

Forty years later, these words seem written specifically for today's crisis. We are indeed in a crisis situation. Much of the damage being wrought upon our natural resources under false or foolish pretenses of economic growth, national security, energy security, and progress is irreversible and irreparable. We ourselves are becoming our worst enemy. I appeal to you, John Forren, to be one of those "men of professional stature and experience," to be guided by science and reason, to take a leadership role to protect those resources that define our Country - and begin by completely reshaping this miserably inadequate EIS for mountaintop removal.

Embarrassingly, while the report acknowledges the significant damage inflicted by mountaintop removal and valley fill, it does not examine a single alternative that would reduce this damage. In fact, protection is substantially weakened. While this Administration claims to use science as a basis for its policies and there is plenty of solid science to show that mountaintop removal and valley fill are extremely damaging, this EIS gives greater license to coal companies to behead our Appalachian mountains and bury our precious streams. I am certainly opposed to weakening the stream buffer zone rule. In fact, 100 feet is not enough buffer to protect our fragile stream ecosystems against the acid leachate and siltation of such massive destruction. The stream buffer rule - or a stronger version - should be strictly enforced for all cases, including valley fills.

I am opposed to all three alternatives in the EIS, since none of them provides reasonable protection for our vital natural resources and neighboring communities. Since no reasonably protective measures can be offered to mitigate resulting damage, I am opposed to mountaintop removal mining, as well as crossridge mining, which would purport to restore obliterated mountaintops. The practice of filling valleys with rubble from decimated mountaintops is entirely ill-conceived, and certainly without scientific basis.

As I examine this EIS, I am angry - angry that this irresponsible and short-sighted set of alternatives is being pushed forward; angry that the mountains, forests, wildlife, clean water, and communities of Appalachia are treated with ill regard; angry that industry is being given great power over common people; and angry that voices like mine these days are falling on deaf ears. I hope you, John Forren, will be different.

Sincerely,

Cindy Kendrick

1-5

Mountaintop mining/Valley Fill DEIS comment

REC'D JAN 09 2004

Oren Kennedy
418 N. Fairview
Lansing MI 48912

Mr. John Forren, U.S. EPA (3EA30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren,

I am writing in opposition to the Action Alternatives that are proposed within the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Appalachian Mountaintop Mining/Valley Fill permitting. I further support the No Action option for this study, or modifications for Action Alternative 1.

As listed in the Federal Register, the reason for this document was "to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to Consider Policies, Guidance, and Processes to Minimize the Environmental Impacts of Mountaintop Mining and Valley Fills in the Appalachian Coalfields." I feel that the Action Alternatives that are proposed within the DEIS do not make a serious attempt for the minimization of environmental impacts. Rather than an attempt at impact minimization, the document stresses the needs for permit expediency for industry.

I understand that some definitions of terms do need to be standardized between the EPA, ACOE, and OSM. However, I feel that this should largely be between the EPA and ACOE, as traditionally done with 404 permitting, with OSM to be a following agency and accept the agreed upon definitions and metrics decided by the EPA and ACOE. It is my understanding that there are definitions for acceptable fills, and biometrics under progress on the delineation of headwater streams which would be useful for definition standardization. The workshop on "The Value of Headwater Streams" noted on the EPA website seems to be an example of work in progress. The Draft EIS shows a disturbing proposal to transfer a large portion of the definition of terms to those utilized and proposed by OSM, with OSM taking over as the lead agency for NWP 21 and Individual Permit decision coordination.

Nationwide permit coverage, in general terms, are for projects with low, routine impacts for which there are a large number of permit applications. For wetland permits, the nationwide coverage is up to 1/2 acre. Under NWP 21, the coverage is for a greater area of impact. In the Executive Summary of the DEIS, it is stated that the actual numbers of permits for NW coverage has actually been decreasing. If the number of permit applications is decreasing, why does the DEIS propose that the process be made easier for industry? Industry is very aware of the coverage for NWP 21 - is it in the best interests of "minimizing impact" to ease the permit system? Furthermore, it should show that the current Individual Permit coverage is not making the permit review process more difficult.

Mitigation for fills within wetlands under 404 permitting is utilized to offset unavoidable impacts. This is usually done within the existing waterbody basin. For MTM/VF permits, I believe that more consideration should be given to 'feasible and prudent alternatives' for the permit proposal before mitigation is decided upon. Furthermore, the very nature of MTM/VF applications means that mitigation within the existing waterbody basin would be very difficult to provide. The DEIS went into depth in the facts that diverse forestation would be proposed for mitigation efforts, but it ignored the basic premises in which mitigation is to be utilized for.

There were positive statements within the DEIS that valley fills can sometimes have wetlands develop on them, and that the fill areas can be also be used for subdivision/land use development. I find these remarks to be irresponsible within a document that is headlined for minimization of environmental impacts.

I urge that the Action Alternatives proposed within the DEIS should be abandoned, and that the agencies involved with MTM/VF permits work

Sincerely,

Oren Kennedy
Oren Kennedy

copy emailed 1/4/04

1-1

12-1-3

1-1

REC'D AUG 26 2003

August 21, 2003

Mr. John Forren
U. S. EPA
1650 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren

On July 22nd I attended both sessions of the public hearing in Hazard, Ky. regarding Mountaintop Mining. I am proud to say that I support Mountaintop Mining. I was born and raised in Hazard, Ky. My grandfather worked in the mining industry and my dad had a tire dealership that relied on the coal industry. My husband is now self-employed related to the coal industry. He has been a coal miner and owns coal trucks and I work for Pine Branch Coal Sales. I feel that I know enough about coal mining to express my opinion about the advantage of mountaintop mining and disgust at the extremist who oppose it but seem to have no facts.

My husband has done many different jobs in the mining industry for 25 years. He is very knowledgeable in the blending of coal that is loaded into rail cars and barges to be shipped to power plants. As you know it is very important that the quality meet regulations. My husband has loaded holes for blasting, operated equipment, loaded trains and barges and bought and sold coal and mining equipment. This has afforded us a good living.

My office, a mine office, has two very large windows that look out at green pasture land and a big pond full of fish. I have worked here for 11 plus years. There is always wildlife around the pond whether it is geese or 10 pound turtles. The deer are more plentiful every year. We caution people when driving down Kentucky Highway 28 to watch for deer. It is one of the most beautiful and natural places in Kentucky.

My husband and I chose to build a home close to the Pine Branch Coal Sales operation. I live within walking distance of where there is currently mountaintop mining. I live a five minute drive from where mountaintop mining was turned into a cattle ranch that is used by the University of Kentucky. These opponents talk of the land being deprived of wildlife because of mountaintop mining. I have lived in my house for 12 years and each year there is more wildlife. There are two foxes that come in my yard every evening about dusk. There are deer, raccoons, squirrels and rabbits in my yard daily. There is a pileated woodpecker that is boring holes in my house. We try to scare it away but it

comes back. I know some of these extreme environmentalist would rather I leave it alone to peck my house down. I've heard the men on the jobs talk of seeing coyotes, turkeys, bears and elk. We have our own wildlife preserve. It is beautiful.

At the public hearing I heard comments about the flyover festival from the Kentuckians for the commonwealth. I have flown over this area many times and am in awe each time. It is amazing to see the development taking place and development that has taken place. I am 43 years old and have seen much growth. My daughter was born a month after the Hazard ARH Regional Medical Center was open. This is on land that was mined. This is only one of many facilities, businesses and homes in this area that have been built on land that has been developed because of mountaintop mining. We would not have many of the opportunities for economic development had it not been for mountaintop mining.

These opponents talk of the bad quality of our water. The water that comes off the job where I work is filtered over the rocks and is clean when it reaches the streams. It is what people throw and flush into our waterways that are contaminating them.

The coal industry is very good for the economy of eastern Kentucky. The coal companies in eastern Kentucky are very generous to organizations and especially schools. Public education in this area depends on coal severance money and the generosity of the coal companies.

I appreciate that there are agencies that regulate the different industries. There should be. I am asking that we not be so over regulated that we're driven out of business. This is where we want to live and raise a family. Please consider our industry and what it means to this area. Please consider the people that are proud of this industry and what they contribute to it everyday.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Carol Anne Kilgore

January 2, 2004

John Forren, Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (3EA30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren,

I am very concerned about plans by the Bush administration for new exploratory mining projects in Appalachia that will involve mountaintop removal, a form of strip mining in which hundreds of feet are blasted off the tops of mountains, strewing millions of tons of mining debris into nearby valleys, choking forests, and burying hundreds of miles of streams.

By its own assessment in its draft environmental impact statement, the Bush administration acknowledges that this form of mining results in environmental and social harms that are severe and largely irreversible. And yet the draft EIS proposes nothing to restrict the damage that will be done to streams, forests, wildlife, and local economies that depend on the natural resources of the areas that will be affected.

I believe that the coal mining industry and the Bush administration must consider alternatives to mountaintop removals in the quest for new energy reserves. **The widespread, devastating, and permanent effects of this form of strip mining are simply unacceptable.** The environmental impact statement must include measures that will protect the natural resources and communities of Appalachia, such as restrictions on the size and amount of mining rubble that will fill valleys as a result of mountaintop removal. **I urge you to immediately amend the draft EIS to include appropriate protections for the streams, forests, wildlife, and human communities of Appalachia.**

Sincerely,

Sterling Kinnell

Sterling Kinnell
3705 Anza Way
San Leandro, CA 94578

Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/12/2004 02:47 PM -----

Mountaintop@EPA
removal

Laura A Klein
<lauraklein@juno.com>
12/31/2003 03:03 PM

To: R3
cc:
Subject: mountaintop

Mr. John Forren
Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (3EA30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Mr. Forren,

I am writing to urge the EPA to limit the harmful practice of mountaintop removal by mining companies. This is a very destructive method, and it is essential that the draft environmental impact statement include ways to protect the environment from the harmful effects of this type of mining. Please amend the EIS immediately to recommend that the Bush administration implement strong protections in this area.

Sincerely,
Laura Klein
1519 Virginia St.
Berkeley, CA 94703
Lauraklein@juno.com

1-5

1-9

First Name: Jennifer Last Name: Knaggs Letter Date: 1/06/2004
 City: Lansing State: MI Zip: 48912

I have seen first hand what happens in a community devastated by mountain top removal. I have seen hills millions of years old flattened, homes and schools turned into parking lots, people terrorized out of their community only for companies to gain mineral rights. The Appalachian people are some of the poorest in the United States, and the richness of their beautiful land is being shoveled into oblivion. They say there will be jobs with the coal companies. I have stood with 10 people inside one monster shovel, 'Big John', with room for at least 40 more A shovel like that can crush a mountain and empty a coal seam in a matter of weeks to days. With one person behind the wheel. That does not create "jobs". I have seen streams dried up from the mountain tops thrown into the valley. Wells that give water to peoples' homes, gone empty or polluted. Entire ecosystems sacrificed, so that we have more unclean energy.

They say that these sites will be reconstructed, unless it is seen that they are fit for better uses. "Better Uses" often means a Walmart parking lot, in a small community, damaging their already fragile economy, with low income wages, and money leaving the community to a distant corporation. Or it is "reconstructed", which means importing wildlife that will grow quickly, but will not replenish the soil for future crops or forests. Importing animals that do not belong in that habitat, damaging the ecosystem. Is this a solution? Coal is already inefficient, dirty, and soon to be undependable resource. Coal plants spend millions of dollars trying to rid themselves of the left over radioactive ash created from burning coal into energy. And they still don't spend enough. People and wildlife are still being poisoned from their "clean air" practices. Instead of supporting mountain top removal, I highly suggest the financial support of renewable resources, such as wind and solar energy. They are the cleanest and least harmful methods of creating energy. I urge you to not support Mountain Top Removal. It is not a solution to our energy crises, but a creating more problems.

1-9

REC'D AUG 04 2003

455 Cherry Falls Rd.
 Webster Springs, WV 26288
 July 31, 2003

Mr. John Forren
 US EPA
 (3EA30)
 1650 Arch St.
 Philadelphia, PA

Dear Mr. Forren,

Please do not allow the changes
proposed by the Bush administration
that would change the Stream Buffer
zone rule and speed up permit
processing to allow Mountain Top
Removal mining and Valley Fills. It
 has already caused extensive ecological
 damage to forest and streams.

1-5

Thank you for your time and
 attention.

Sincerely,
 Gerri Kolesar

---- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 01:59 PM ----

"vkranda@qualcomm
.com" <vkranda
cc: To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
01/06/2004 12:24 Subject: Please Stop Destructive Mountaintop
Removal Mining
PM

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

I strongly urge you to amend the EPA's draft environmental impact statement so as to limit the effects of harmful mountaintop removal mining. I find it unconscionable that the Bush administration plans to continue to let coal companies destroy Appalachia with mining practices that level mountaintops, wipe out forests, bury streams and destroy communities.

1-9

The Bush administration's "preferred alternative" for addressing the enormous problems caused by mountaintop removal mining ignores the administration's OWN studies and proposes weakening existing environmental protections and allowing mountaintop removal and associated valley fills to continue at an accelerated rate.

1-10

Sincerely,

Vanessa Kranda
4675 Bancroft Apt F
San Diego, CA 92116
vkranda@qualcomm.com

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/07/2004 03:42 PM -----

"jfkratzer@juno.c
om" <jfkratzer To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc: 01/07/2004 10:24 Subject: Please Stop Destructive Mountaintop
Removal Mining
AM

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

As a supporter of President Bush, I don't normally agree with the views of "Act for Change". However, I am stronly opposed to mountaintop mining. I normally support reasonable human uses of the environment, but the impacts of mountaintop mining are unreasonable.

1-9

Sincerely,

Jud Kratzer
6076 Marsh Rd. Apt. F4
Haslett, PA 48840
jfkratzer@juno.com

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 01:59 PM -----

"oaklandis@hotmail.com" <oaklandis@
cc: 01/06/2004 01:09 PM
Removal Mining
Subject: Please Stop Destructive Mountaintop

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

Dear Mr. Forren:

The Bush administration has a terrible habit of interpreting information to support its own predetermined agenda. In this latest case it has decided that mountaintop removal for mining purposes should continue, despite the government's own studies indicating the irreversible damage of such a practice.

Please do not accept this short-sighted and terribly destructive agenda. Please amend the draft EIS to recommend restrictions on the scope of mountaintop removals, and elevate protection of wildlife and rural communities to their proper place as the top consideration in any proposed mining operation.

Sincerely,
Scott Kravitz

Scott Kravitz
2796 Casiano Rd.
Los Angeles, CA 90077
oaklandis@hotmail.com

----- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/08/2004 01:52 PM -----

kruzen
<kruzen@socket.net> To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
cc: Carla Klein <carla.klein@centurytel.net>,
Andy Mahler <andy@bluewin.ch>,
Ken Midkiff <ken.midkiff@sierraclub.org>, Scott
Dye <scott.dye@sierraclub.org>
12/22/2003 12:44 PM
Subject: Mountain top removal
Please respond to
kruzen

December 22, 2003

Dear Mr. Forren,

Blowing up mountains and filling in valleys to get at the coal as cheap as possible is reprehensible. It is the ultimate in mining destruction, and like Humpty Dumpty, those mountains, valleys and all the living things that depend on them are gone forever, including human beings. What of CONSERVATION? A penny saved is a penny earned. We've recently purchased a Prius and get 45 mpg average! What if everyone did that? What if everyone upgraded their appliances and light bulbs to be energy saving??? Maybe we wouldn't have to destroy the beautiful Appalachians in Kentucky and West Virginia!

The Bush administration plan to expand this terrible process is flat out wrong. Put the "protection" in the EPA and deny the expansion of Mountain top removal. If you proceed with Bush's plan, you will be irrevocably be destroying our natural heritage just as surely as if a terrorist dove a plane into the Statue of Liberty. You will also be destroying a culture and many communities in the Appalachians. This is NOT your mandate...to destroy...it's to PROTECT! Do your job!!!

Sincerely,

Tom Kruzen, President
Ozark Riverkeeper Network
213 East 3rd St.
Mt. View, Missouri, 65548

Free Web Email & Filter Enhancements.
<http://www.freewebemail.com/filtertools/>

1-7

1-9

January 3, 2004

---- Forwarded by David Rider/R3/USEPA/US on 01/07/2004 03:32 PM ----

"keen_2bcrazy@yah
oo.com" To: R3 Mountaintop@EPA
<keen_2bcrazy cc:
Subject: Please Stop Destructive Mountaintop

Removal Mining
01/06/2004 11:00
PM

Dear Mr. John Forren, Project Manager,

As we try to move towards less-polluting technologies, this plan is an act that will discourage new industries and provide a subsidy to old ones that the taxpayer will pay the tab for both directly and indirectly through cleanup costs, higher mercury emissions, and other problems. This represents government at its worst and is another example of corporate welfare that makes citizens feel that their government is an enemy of their interests.

Sincerely,

Glenn Kuehne
1611 6th Ave. E.
Alexandria, MN 56308
keen_2bcrazy@yahoo.com

Kara Kukovich P.O. Box 303
3901 N. 13th Street 42 Murdock Drive
Arlington Unity College
VA 22201 Unity, ME 04988-9502

Mr. John Forren
U.S. EPA (3EA30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
mountaintop.r3@epa.gov

REC'D JAN 12 2004

Re: Comment on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS)
on Mountaintop Coal Mining and Associated Valley Fills.

Dear Mr. Forren:

I am a college freshman and have no direct stake in the issue because I am not from the coal region, and neither do I or my family work in the coal industry. However, I did spend two weeks on an active mountaintop mining site, so I would appreciate your consideration of my comments and insights about the environmental impact of mountaintop mining.

I oppose mountaintop mining because of its adverse impact on the environment. Once the mountain top is removed, it does not "grow back." There are no trees, the soil that took centuries to accumulate and ripen is gone and replaced with barren rock. Not even native species can grow on this rock, so Russian olive and Australian plants have to be imported to tenaciously and perhaps tentatively cling to this tearing at the mountain.

I believe such a drastic altering of the topology also affects the weather of a region. There is nothing there to hold the moisture. At least where the mountain has been sheared, it is barren. I recall one morning observing a dense fog from the mined area. I learned that such moisture escaping from the barren area would have been retained by the forest and its plants before the site was mined. Ironically, where our policy in farming and suburban development is to retain the moisture of an area, here we simply allow it to flush down the valleys or accumulate in the sheared off mountain tops and dry up into the sky.

Animals and birds certainly do not benefit.

Yes, I have observed birds, in particular, congregating and finding food among the scrubby plants that are trying to keep life alive on a mined site. But how different a habitat they had before the mountain was removed. That birds are back is more a testimony to their ability to survive in a world continually fouled by man.

1-9